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Nowhere To Go...

Soon, universities all over the country will be "flooded" with freshers pouring out of colleges with various degrees under their belt. About 60% of them will get into the courses of their choice, the rest will go from one department to another, fail to gain admission and swell the ranks of the frustrated youth. Some will get into departments offering courses in which they have absolutely no interest. They join the university only to become statistics.

The Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University recently observed that most students come to the university because they have nowhere else to go. This is a telling comment on our much-vaunted educational system which in the words of Sterling decorates the fingers but cuts the wrist!

In the 50th year of India's independence, we continue to produce degree-holders who are as intellectual as copy-holders in a printing press. They are all "ready" but have nowhere to go!

Nicholas Butler has said, "There are five tests of the evidence of education—correctness and precision in the use of mother tongue; refined and gentle manners; sound standards of appreciation of beauty; power and habit of reflection; efficiency of the power to do." That not many degree-holders pass these tests is an understatement. They have gone through the university but the university has not gone through them! Eventually, they become bitter and brazen.

We are told that these students are bright-eyed realists who see beyond the sham of our outworn social and educational traditions to a brave new world in which reason and justice prevail. It is the voice of those who cannot distinguish between tall-talk and genuine intellectual activity.

Only the intellectually raw can believe that Ram Rajya is five demonstrations and three strikes away. Until they accept the hard thinking and work to create a clean society, their sound and fury will signify nothing.

The new generation rejects the old system and demands an education relevant to the contemporary world. Some students seem indifferent to anything which in their narrow view does not light up the contemporary scene.

Students who are thrust into classes today do not seem to

differ significantly from those of the past. They differ in such things as height of heels, colour of jeans, amount of hair, but they still are: those who can profit by the university, those who are not ready for the university and those who will never be ready.

The modern freshman is too ill-informed to realize how ignorant he is. He is a curious mixture of ignorance and cramming. He thinks that education is good thing if he does not have to work too hard for it! He has only a vague idea of what an education is which he



usually equates with a diploma.

Our education nurses the student on the notion that one must have a degree or resign from the success race. This fantasy (the creation of university departments of admissions) is one of the monumental white-wash jobs of all time. The universities are, thus, confronted with a gigantic task of mental suckling of students who have no real desire for learning.

The Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University has cast a stone in the placid, stagnant waters of our educational system at the right time—the 50th year of independence and time of admissions. Will it have the desired effect?



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Osho Says : 'These small poems of Ikkyu are of immense importance. Religion has to talk in parables, in poetry, in metaphors, in myth. Those are indirect ways of hinting at the truth just hinting, not direct pointing; just whispering, not shouting. Don't try to understand Ikkyu's poems intellectually; rather play with them with love, sympathy, rapport. And slowly, slowly, like fragrance, like a melody, something will arise in you and you will be to see what this man wants to convey. He wants to convey that which cannot be conveyed; he wants to say which cannot be said. And he has been able to convey it a holy man, Otherwise you will remain half-and half man is always miserable, The west is miserable spiritually, the East is miserable materially.

And man need both.

—Ma Sagarpriya

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READERS' FORUM

The best two letters of the month, appearing in the box, have been awarded a prize of Rs 100.00 each. Readers are invited to send us their views on topics covered in this issue. The decision of the Editors will be final.

BLACK ECONOMY

India is a poor country, but going by the figures of the black money accumulated, one cannot say that it is really poor. The country may be poor but its people are rich, at least some of them. This shows the laxity of laws. If enforcement of laws is made strict, perhaps we can get rid of this harsh reality of life.

Satinder Paul Singh
Barriar, Punjab

THE WORLD ON YOUR DESK

The cover story on computers was unique and described many things about the information highway which we were not aware about, even though we study information technology these days. Since it is a growing field and there are many things we do not know, I suggest that you carry such articles regularly.

Pankaj Arora
Palheri, Haryana

Though computers have invaded the urban life, nothing can veil the sufferings of poverty and unemployment. Instead of doing something for the downtrodden, the young people want to do diplomas in computers and go abroad to make their fortune. If the brain-drain continues, who will work for the country?

M. Soundariya Preetha
Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh

PERSONALITY CULT

Your editorial on personality cult has come not a day too soon. We are getting an overdose of personalities which is neither good for the polity nor conducive for the national interest. What the country needs today is the glue of ideals and not a personality cult which crashes the moment the reality is discovered.

Leena Sinha
Patna, Bihar

Personality cult is ingrained in the Indian psyche. By relying on Sonia Gandhi, the Congress has exposed its own weakness. It has no leader who is acceptable to the country. This shows how dependent we still are and how no second line of command is allowed to develop in organisations.

V. Sagar
Delhi

ANTI-DEFECTION LAW

The anti-defection law was made to produce a sense of discipline in political parties but it has been distorted by our politicians. In our democratic system, an MP must be allowed to act independently, since he represents many people. By restricting his right to vote, as has been happening now, democracy in our country is subverted.

Bhupesh Bhatt
Meerut, U.P.

We must learn from mistakes. The Anti-Defection law was made with a specific purpose but has been subverted by our politicians. We should now remove its shortcomings and amend it accordingly.

Chinmayee Mishra
Puri, Orissa

ENVIRONMENT CONSCIOUSNESS

Environment is a blessing bestowed by nature but is being ruined by greed. We continue destroying the environment but make posters and write poems on Environment Day. This is really hypocritical, because we do nothing to solve the problem.

K.A. Wani
Anantnag, J&K

CM FEATURES

Your magazine covers all the important issues in a comprehensive manner. Issues relating to the North-East are covered in a well-balanced way. I thank you for covering our leaders like the Dalai Lama and look forward to more coverage on such issues.

Ngawang Tsaltrum
Darjeeling, West Bengal

Your magazine is not only informative but guides us to the stage of success. It brings us in contact with things happening around us as well as

STOPPING BLACK MONEY

How can we control black money and stop it from reaching its destination? Do we really have the power in the first place? If the tax structure had been rationalised, fewer people would have concealed their wealth. People also do not like to pay taxes because they know the money will be wasted by the government, paying salaries of unproductive *babus*. Secondly, when politicians openly make money and have lavish lifestyles, why condemn a person who has made money by working hard but refuses to declare it?

Had government been successful to totally control black money, we would not have grown economically to the extent that we have. Let us not forget that black money has been a big moving force in our country.

C. Ramakrishnan
Cuddalore

ALLOW A CONSCIENCE VOTE

A majority of the people feel that Mr T. N. Seshan should be the next President. He is the only man who can cleanse the degraded political scene. In our district, some non-political persons have started a signature campaign to bring pressure on the local MPs and MLAs to cast their vote for Mr Seshan. But the elected representatives will not be able to vote by ignoring the whip of their party. It is ironical that though the MPs and MLAs are chosen by the people, once they are elected they must follow their party president. Since the will of the people is not being represented in the Presidential elections, the system must be changed so that undue importance to political parties is checked.

Deep Chandra Panda
Pithampur, Uttar Pradesh

in the world.

L. Athikho Kajiehe
Delhi

The Business GK feature is very helpful and has helped me a lot. Please make it into a regular feature.

Panna Chowdhury
Nabagram, West Bengal

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ESSAY

Time is a Tyrant

TODAY we are slaves of speed and success syndrome. No sermons are strong enough to dissuade us to spare some moments from our busy schedule, to sit or stand and stare at the supreme beauty that nature unfolds away from the maddening crowds. Lost in the comforts of present-day life, the mind has missed its moorings in the maze of woes and worries, cares and calculations, as a result of which we are caught in the cross-fire of mental chaos and physical crisis. The very meaning of our life has acquired new connotations and our concerns and considerations, sans compassion, are soaked in tensions and traumas because we are moving away from such forces of nature as can provide genuine and innocent rest and rapture. Racing against time, we are hell-bent to break new records and meet the dead-lines, even if we have to become robots or mechanised beings.

We are past those ages when "stuck in the rut, time gasps like an asthmatic". Now, acutely aware of the smallest constituent particles of time—of time as measured by clock-work and revolutions of machines—industrialised man has to a great extent lost the old awareness of time in its larger divisions. The time of which we have knowledge is artificial, machine-made time. We have become pawns in the hands of time, the most merciless task-master that leaves us very few options to have our way. Because of the sinister stresses that time exerts on our senses and sensibilities, it has come to occupy a pride of place in our concepts and actions. Our choice to wait and watch the splendid spectrum of flora and fauna has been limited to viewing a few scenes on the small screen without the thrill of live contact with the bountiful beauties of nature. Always on the move to scale new heights and achieve bigger targets, we keep running against time. Many

a time our blind passions and pursuits end either in a stroke here or a nervous break-down there. In fact, we are out of tune and touch with the salutary sensations that a less fast life can ensure.

We have given away our hearts and sweet sentiments in exchange for glittering graffiti and flashy faces that money can arrange or buy for us. Submitting meekly to the dictates of time, we have reduced ourselves to the status of non-entities being jostled and jettisoned by circumstances or quirks of unforeseen developments.

Ever since our ideas and ingenuity began to explore the mysteries of nature and their universal influence on our lives, we have been in a state of unrest and the human condition quite unnatural. We have moved forward with such a momentum that for us resting has become rusting and leisure being languid. If the world around has become exceptionally glamorous, we have also begun to suffer morbid feelings like scepticism and fear. We may fail to see our own estrangement and alienation in the glitzy glitter of the Milky Way of our flashy and fashionable shopping centres, as also the ghostly faces of the intellectuals, clerks, bourgeoisie or workers. Time, as the tormentor, keeps us on our toes and tenterhooks and the more we claim to have conquered time and space, the more we are harried. The inevitable phenomenon of cut-throat competition forces us to move away from such gifts of nature and human character as beauty, truth, innocence, concern and compassion. We seldom realise what harm we have done to our own psyche.

Spurred to act in self-interest, we only care about how to climb the career graph or boost our business interests in the shortest possible time. The way we shape and direct our ambitions, takes a heavy toll of

our sentiments, sensibilities and sensitivities. The movement of stars on the sky does not move us; the change of seasons does not excite us; the spell of poetry and painting passes over our heads and finally the bliss of being one with the ultimate through love, service or sacrifice escapes us. All this happens because we are too involved in catching up with time.

If our hearts fail to "dance with the daffodils", the eyes refuse to read "the books in the running brooks" and the ears become deaf to "the sermons in stones", there is something that has gone wrong in our lives. All fretting and fuming signifies nothing substantial in the end in terms of emotional ecstasy and mental maturity. More in angst and anguish than in anger, the poet Davies regrets what we have made of life and ourselves:

*"A poor life this if, full of care
We have no time to stand and stare"*

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SPECIAL FEATURE

Hong Kong Returns to China

Hong Kong was handed over to China by the British on July 1, 1997. The island was a British colony for 156 years but during this time had become the world's freest economy, supporting more millionaires than any other territory. The handover was marked with some amount of trepidation, as it was felt that the Chinese government would not allow the freedom that had become the hallmark of Hong Kong, which accounts for 56 per cent of the total foreign investment in China.

This feature provides the history and the events leading to the handover. Will life ever be same for its 6.4 million people?

BRITAIN acquired Hong Kong from China in 1842 as a result of one of the least creditable episodes of history. In the late 18th century, Britain was importing huge quantities of Chinese goods, including tea and silk, which created a trade imbalance. To reduce its trade deficit with China, Britain started to sell opium to China. The country resisted and in 1838, the Qing dynasty ruler sent Lin Tse-hsu as imperial envoy to ban the opium trade in Guangdong. Lin barricaded the foreign merchants and forced them to surrender their opium.

The British traders were determined and this resulted in a skirmish starting the First Anglo-Chinese War, which is also known as the First Opium War. Britain's victory forced Emperor Dao Guang to sign the Treaty of Nanjing, ceding Hong Kong to Queen Victoria. The prize was disparagingly described by foreign secretary Lord Palmerstone as "a barren island with hardly a house upon it", but it is now the richest international trading city of the world.

The second Anglo-Chinese war in 1856-57 ended with a settlement with the Convention of Beijing of 1860, under which

China was forced to cede Kowloon, the tip of the mainland opposite Hong Kong. A 99-year lease in 1898 secured the rest of the Kowloon peninsula and more than 230 islands forming the Hong Kong archipelago. The British could never imagine that the barren island could one day become one of the most prosperous regions of the world. They just wanted to establish a place of residence there "for British subjects, where their persons may be safe from molestation."

The lease expired on June 30, 1997. The British started discussions in 1979 and tried to renew the lease. This was refused by Deng Xiaoping, who demanded full sovereignty. The agreement surrendering all of Hong Kong to China was signed in 1984. China agreed to abide by the Basic Law, which has international treaty status and is registered with the United Nations. Under this, Hong Kong would continue with its capitalist system for 50 years, upto 2047. This gives the residents hope that things will not change drastically into communist-style dictatorship, though one-third of the population has obtained foreign passports and could escape if things became too bad. Already, there is consternation about the presence of large number of troops of the People's Liberation Army (PLA)

Handover Blues

WHILE China would surely not jeopardise the future of Hong Kong and its status as a global financial centre by any hasty steps, the fear was somewhat justified. Though the country will follow its famous "one-country-two-systems" approach—the idea that regions in Chinese sovereignty could have separate political

and economic systems—pessimists are worried nevertheless because of unpredictability of Chinese rulers and their scant regard for world opinion. For once, decolonisation has not meant liberation, but people have decided to stay in the city which is rightly called the "Pearl of the Orient".

Though Britain ruled for 156 years, it was content in letting Hong Kong be a traders' paradise and delight for the consumers. When serious talks began for handover, it started introducing democracy. In 1984, when the joint declaration was signed, no member of the local legislature was elected. While half of them were appointed by the Governor, others were senior government officials. The following year elective politics was introduced. The first direct polls were held in 1991. Britain's efforts to introduce democracy at the fag end of its colonial rule were suspect and naturally annoyed the Chinese.

The island's Governor, Chris Patten, redesigned the constituencies of Hong Kong, much to China's disapproval. He lowered the voting age from 21 to 18 and broadened the electoral rolls, leading to Hong Kong's first democratically elected legislature in 1995. China said that this violated the Basic Law, the post-1997 Constitution by which it must abide. Patten's political reforms were, thus, implemented over stiff opposition from Beijing, making the handover an acrimonious one. The incoming administration has dismantled Patten's reforms and replaced it with a Provisional legislature, which would pass laws until elections are held.

The Special Administrative Region (SAR) government is essentially same as before. Governor Patten has been replaced by SAR chief executive Tung Chee Hwa,

also known as C.H. Tung. He asked key political secretaries to stay on, but may replace them slowly.

China's stamp

SOME things will, undoubtedly, change. Civil liberties that the people of Hong Kong have enjoyed so far will be restricted. For example, China is averse to any criticism of its policies and certain things are immediately outlawed. Advocating Tibetan or Taiwanese independence is a crime in China; burning a SAR flag will be punishable with three years in prison. Demonstrating without police approval will also be a crime.

Hong Kong had challenged the Tiananmen crackdown of 1989, the anniversary of which is marked by an annual vigil in its Victoria park. This year's commemoration on June 4, 1997 may have been the last to be allowed. The SAR government will redefine offences like treason, sedition and subversion and the first elected legislature in 1998 will form laws to deal with them. Article 23 in the Basic Law is a time bomb and it remains to be seen how it will be used.

In China, political dissenters are often found guilty of these crimes and get a sentence between 10 years to life. Civil liberties will probably diminish by degrees and there are fears that Hong Kong will become like any other Chinese city, where there is neither rule of the law nor political freedom. Freedom of the press may also be curtailed gradually.

The Basic Law states that the judicial system would be maintained. But Chinese is to gradually be used along with English, starting from the lower courts. Much of the legal texts have already been rendered into Chinese. Acts of government have been put outside the purview of Hong Kong courts.

Some of the fears may well be unfounded. China surely knows the folly of killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. Economic freedom has made Hong Kong that goose. Though some freedoms may be curtailed, the country will surely ensure that the economic freedom and the related growth continues. The process may even work in the opposite direction, if China

takes the Hong Kong model and applies it to its other cities. Already, China is trying to develop some growth centres by using the capitalist approach. The residents of the city are, thus, not unduly worried and are of the firm opinion that apart from some civil liberties, nothing much will change.

Economy

THE success of Hong Kong is due to the fact that it has imbibed the best of British and Chinese values. It has become the seventh largest trading entity with a volume of \$ 380 billion. It is the fifth largest banking centre, with over 182 licensed banks and has the busiest container port.

The economy boomed because migrants from China, who came here, wanted to work hard and make their fortune. Escaping from poverty in the mainland, they were able to use all their ingenuity to fulfil Deng's famous words, "To get rich is glorious". Today, its per capita GNP of \$ 24,455 is greater than that of Britain, Canada or Australia. GDP growth has been averaging at 4.9 per cent. Exports are \$ 180 billion and almost one in ten people have mobile phones.

If the city was described as a "barren rock" at one time, today it is a rock that

never rests. The city is constantly on the move. Denied the economic freedom at home, entrepreneurs started factories that made almost anything. Cheap labour helped them produce goods that were competitive. Hong Kong was lucky to escape the misfortunes that hit China from time to time. When goods from Korea invaded the market, the entrepreneurs simply changed lines. The territory escaped the ravages of the cultural revolution and the famines that plagued China. When rising labour costs threatened industry, factories were relocated across the border into Southern China while offices were maintained in Hong Kong, for easy trade and access to world markets. So fast was the transition that the city never stood still to face economic stagnation.

The British have now left and it has become part of China. On July 1, 1997, Chris Patten and Prince Charles sailed aboard the *Britannica* after the handing over ceremonies, marking an end to an era in history. The handover was marked by parties and merry-making. From now, Hong Kong's economic growth will be linked to that of China. Whether it continues with its wealth-producing ways or not, there is little doubt that one of history's wrongs has been set right.

The Pearl of the Orient



The ornate official seal has been replaced by one featuring the *bauhinia*, a local flower.

Hong Kong, whose official seal is now the *bauhinia*, a local flower, has had a unique destiny. As a British colony, it escaped the Communist rule in China, while offering refuge to immigrants who would come here to make their fortune. Economic freedom made them prosper: the GNP at \$ 157 billion is more than that of Singapore (\$ 95 billion). It has the costliest homes—a two bedroom apartment costs \$ 2 million—and with 271 vehicles per kilometre, has the world's densest traffic ratio. The city stands as the best argument for economic freedom: China today has no city like Hong Kong. China earns one-third of its foreign exchange from here.

It is also a city where one will come across some unique items: pig's heads, baskets with frogs for making soup, live chickens and open-air restaurants. Snake soup is a speciality and seafood is popular here. Should you fall sick, you can buy a dried seahorse or parts of other endangered animals, which are used as medicines. The people, reportedly, speak louder than any other people on earth. It is also a shoppers' paradise, with some of the best shopping centres located here. It has a thriving film industry, with Jackie Chan being its most famous cultural export.

Housing is in severe shortage and is expected to get worse. There are 402 secondary schools and Chinese will replace English as a medium of instruction. Modern influences like satellite TV and discos are popular.

ARTICLE

Towards Sustained Industrial Growth

In any growing economy, the growth of industries occupies the central place in the public policy for overall economic development. The potential for rapid economic development in the industrial sector is so immense that the policy-makers in India, right from the beginning of the planning era, opted for heavy industrialisation. Taking a cue from the economic development of the erstwhile USSR, India not only chose five-year plan model, but also placed reliance on Mahalanobis Model for quick industrial development. Even today, the industrial sector remains high on the agenda of planners, with the only difference that increasing faith is being reposed in the private sector to prop up the industries. The dominant role played by the public sector in rapid industrialisation during the first five plans is, however, on the wane.

Changing Scenario

NEHROVIAN model of economic development sought to promote industries in India through the government owned and controlled public sector. There were many factors responsible for choosing this alternative. The existing state of industrial sector at that time was so poor that it was necessary for the government to intervene. Moreover, the private capital available for investment was so scarce and selective that the government has no alternative but to come forward as major investor in the industrial sector. Heavy and basic industries required huge capital investment with low return over an extremely long period of time. These industries were also entrusted with plethora of social objectives like development of infrastructure, employment generation and balanced regional growth.

After having played the role of catalyst during the early years of economic development, the public sector gradually started degenerating, yielding place to the private investors. Due to increased economic activity, the private investors were now willing to take up industrial projects even in less profitable ventures. Mid-eighties could clearly see the maladies of the public sector and the government decided to gradually open many areas and sectors to the private sector. While many steps to liberalise the industries and to overhaul the public sector were taken in late-eighties, the real process of transformation began after the industrial policy statement of July 22, 1991. This policy statement reduced the number of industrial activities reserved for public sector from 17 to only eight. This has enabled the private sector to invest in many areas which were hitherto reserved for the public sector exclusively. The decade of nineties has witnessed drastic changes in the industrial sector scenario so far.

Public sector is being revamped and restructured rapidly. Disinvestment of government equity is a welcome step aimed at introducing private ownership, control and professional management in the ailing public sector. The system of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has further reduced the external interference and enhanced the economic and administrative autonomy of the public sector. Very few public sector undertakings enjoy the state of monopoly they were earlier used to, and now have to face a stiff competition from the private entrepreneurs.

Industrial sector has been delicensed to a great extent in last six years. Liberalisation introduced in this sector

has encouraged sizeable amount of investment, including the foreign investment.

Promising Strides

DURING the Eighth Plan, the performance of the industrial sector has been extremely good. Even during the seventh plan, industrial sector performed quite well. Against the average annual growth rate of 3.5 per cent achieved during the Sixth Five-Year Plan, Seventh Plan registered an average annual growth rate of 7.5 per cent in the industrial sector, which was in turn responsible for achieving overall growth rate of 6.04 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the plan period. Eighth Plan also achieved a growth rate of around 6 per cent of the GDP. Last three years of the Eighth Plan recorded the highest ever growth rate in the industrial sector, indicating the correctness of the direction of the industrial policy. If the present trend continues, the Ninth Plan may end with average annual growth rate of around 10 per cent.

Sizeable foreign investment has been one of the factors responsible for the booming industrial sector. During the years 1994-95 and 1995-96, the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) had been around \$ 2 billion, which is estimated to have risen to over \$ 2.5 billion during 1996-97, although the level of FDI may be much lower when compared to the level of \$ 18 billion per annum achieved by China during 1995-96. While several provisions of FERA have been relaxed, a lot more is required to be done if the FDI is to be increased to act as an engine of rapid growth. The government has to create

awareness among the masses, as well its own administrative machinery, that the FDI is much superior to international credit, being less costly and more productive. It provides limited balance of payment support as well as selective inflow of latest technology.

The Approach Paper to the Ninth Year Plan promises to continue the policy changes introduced since 1991. The Approach Paper commits itself to reduce the number of industries subject to licencing by delicensing. Moreover, the list of industries for which automatic approval upto 51 per cent foreign equity participation is permitted, would be enlarged to cover mining and exploration services, among others. This limit of foreign equity participation is also likely to be raised to 74 per cent, with 100 per cent foreign equity participation in tourism projects and hotels etc. The Ninth Plan also aims at considering the existing process of disinvestment in the public sector units on the basis of recommendations of recently constituted Dis-investment Commission.

Special emphasis have been placed in the Approach Paper on the Small Scale Industries (SSI). This sector has considerable potential for generating employment and achieving widespread regional dispersal. Capacity of the SSI sector to respond quickly to the market changes is well known. The special importance of SSI can be highlighted by the facts that it contributes more than 40 per cent of the value added in the manufacturing and more than 35 per cent of the total exports of the country. The Approach Paper promises to raise the investment limit for SSI, provide more incentives and support to facilitate their growth and substantially augment the credit flow to this sector. Evolving of new institutional mechanism has been promised to augment the credit flow to the village and small industries.

Food processing industry is yet another area identified for quick development by the Ninth Plan Approach Paper. At present, this sub-sector of the industrial sector provides employment to about 1.5 million persons and accounts for about 18 per cent of the total output in the in-

dustrial sector. But, it is a matter of great concern that about 70 per cent of the units in the food processing industries sector are in village and small scale sector, using primitive technology. Our country being the largest grower of fruits and second largest grower of vegetables in the world, this sector has enormous scope for growth. Value addition and processing of fruit and vegetables, meat, fisheries and other items of food, if tackled carefully, can transform the entire industrial sector.

Recent Trends

AFTER the exit of Rao government at the Centre, many feared that the process of reforms, particularly in the industrial sector, may be reversed by the United Front (UF) government. But all these fears have turned to be unfounded. Notwithstanding the minority government at helm of affairs, Mr P. Chidambaram, the illustrious Finance Minister, has presented a historic and bold budget for the year 1997-98. In nutshell, this year's budget is mainly directed at accelerating the industrial growth rate.

The Finance Minister has acceded to the longstanding demand of the industry to abolish the surcharge on the corporate tax. Moreover, in line with the recommendations of the Chelliah Committee on tax reforms, the highest corporate tax has been slashed down to 35 per cent. Foreign companies which were earlier subject to 55 per cent tax, are now required to pay the tax at the rate of 48 per cent. Similarly, dividend income has been exempted from tax, thereby removing the anomaly of double taxation on the corporate earnings. These measures, on the one hand, encourage the foreign investment and, on the other, would boost up the industrial sector in general as well as the stock markets, thereby stepping up the investment levels.

Reduction in the excise and custom duties are aimed at making the industrial sector more competitive, both domestically as well as internationally. Maximum custom duty has been reduced from 50 per cent to 40 per cent which would help

the industrial sector to import capital goods at a cheaper rate. Similarly, wide ranging reductions announced in the excise duty would step up industrial activity as well as exports.

Certain precautions, however, are required to be taken. The decision to allow foreign capital, collaborations and joint ventures liberally may sound attractive, but due care has to be taken while allowing and approving particular projects. Many products in India are manufactured by thousand of small scale units spread all over the country, employing thousand of persons at local level. Entry of multinational giants in such sectors would ruin the existing industries, as these would not be able to compete such foreign companies either in terms of quality or cost of production. Unmindful approvals to the foreign investment may spell disaster to the domestic industrial units.

Another area of caution is that the desire for rapid economic development should not lose sight of the rural poor. Rural areas, which constitute over two-third of our population, have lesser industries and industrial development may not benefit the rural population. These areas also contain most of the poorer population and industrial boom may not uplift the rural poor in the near future. Strong financial support to the social sectors, including health, education, rural development, sanitation, etc, is required to be provided by the government to keep the balance. In addition, new investors should be encouraged to set up their new units in the rural areas so that not only employment generation takes place in these areas, but benefits of development also readily trickle down to the rural poor.

Undoubtedly, rapid industrial development holds the key to overall development of any economy. Many countries in Asia, including China, South Korea, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia, have already experienced this phenomenon. India has already chosen the same path but the peculiar problems of this country call for appropriate safeguards, lest we get bogged down by the problems.

DEBATE; DISCUSSION

Electing India's New President

India elects a new President this year, as the term of President S.D. Sharma expires on July 24, 1997. The high office was dragged in a controversy this time, with a section of the MPs demanding that the new President should belong to the scheduled castes. Should the President's Office too be a subject of the pernicious reservations, or should the high office belong to an eminent person? More so now, when the role of the President is becoming more important in the era of coalition politics?

Our debate for this month discusses the Presidential elections and the important point raised by the Election Commissioner, who was against the issuing of whips. Though theoretically the President is of the people and anyone can contest the election, the candidate is actually the choice of political parties. Perhaps the time has come to de-politicise the post so that the best person can be chosen for the job, and not one who is the least controversial.

Mr A This year India will choose a new President. The role played by President S.D. Sharma has been exemplary and he has not shown undue favours to any political party. Often decried as a 'copybook President', because he stuck to the Constitution, he has nevertheless upheld the tradition of the high office. But as his term expires and he has indicated that he would not like to continue for another term, we can expect a new President later this year. The Constitution keeps the door open for all, including serious and non-serious aspirants, but that is only on paper. An unattached aspirant just does not have a chance to win and must have the support of political parties to get elected. Moreover, parties issue whips to their

MLAs and MPs so the process is not entirely open. In a recent opinion poll it was found that T.N. Seshan was considered as the most suitable candidate after S.D. Sharma, but Seshan's chances of election are extremely slim since he is unattached and has the support of just the Shiv Sena. While the common man sees in him a strong person who can introduce some ethics in politics, all the parties naturally do not want him and have rejected him. So the aspirations of the people and those of the elected representatives are not reconciled. Should the system not take into account what the people want?

Mr B You are right, but unfortunately the situation is such that the legislators only want to keep their own interest in mind. They are not concerned with national interest. I agree that Seshan is the right person for the job and most of my friends think so too, but the fact is that all the parties are scared of him. He may introduce discipline on them, which nobody wants. That is the reason that he has been sidelined. On the other hand, it was sad to see some people demanding that a scheduled caste person be made the President. True, our country does not place value on merit, but I felt that this was going too far. The person who is our President should be a learned man, a man of personality. He represents the entire country on ceremonial occasions. To introduce controversy was very unfortunate and showed the self-serving nature of our elected representatives. The post should not be reserved, so that the best man is chosen. If the post is reserved for any caste or community, what message

will we send out? Our society is already fractured and leaders should weigh the consequences of their actions before embarking on such foolish demands.

Mr C You are right that the person who is our President should be a learned man. In the past, we have had intellectuals like Dr Radhakrishnan and Dr Zakir Hussain. These people lent dignity to the office, though there were one or two exceptions when the party in power sacrificed decorum for political comfort. The caste controversy has been needless, to my mind. Mr K.R. Narayanan has emerged as a consensus candidate now and he too is a learned man. To attribute his nomination to his caste is to do great injustice to him. It speaks volumes for the democratic traditions of our country that a *dalit* can become the President without reservation. His proponents have sought to introduce casteism in his choice and thereby belittled him. It goes to his credit that in the murky world of politics, his name has not figured in any controversy. Mr Narayanan did not need the crutches of caste to reach his position, and that is an indication of social justice, which with reservations can never be.

Mr D While I am not against the candidature of Mr Narayanan, I wonder why we need a consensus President at all. Is it because we need to be politically correct? Why can't we have a person who can shake up the system rather be a docile observer to the corrupt ways of the Ministers? We need a strong person who can, for instance, go out of the way and grant sanction to an

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investigating agency for prosecuting a corrupt Minister or Governor. Today, many ex-Ministers are scot free because the Central government has not granted permission to prosecute them. The President should step in and grant the necessary permission in such cases. Only then can we have some morality in public life. When political parties pitch for a consensus candidate, they hope that the person will maintain the *status quo* and not rock the boat too much. In Mr Narayanan they hope to have found such a candidate. The fact that he is a *dalit* will be used to broadcast things like social justice even though there is none involved in this case. By condescendingly choosing him, politicians can pretend to have upheld social conscience even though they use slogans to extract the maximum profit out of the market of casteism. Rather than do anything concrete for the poor and the downtrodden, the politician uses symbols to parade their social concerns. In Mr Narayanan they have found such a symbol. I think this is very dishonest. The consensus is dubious and it is actually a triumph of political exigency over popular expectations.

Mr E There is also the question of the parties using a whip in the presidential elections. Election Commissioner G.V.G. Krishnamurthy summed up the hypocritical attitude when he said that though the politicians said they wanted a free and fair poll, they still vote by the whip issued by their parties. "The President of India is the President of the people, not of political parties", he said. He conjured up a frightening picture of the term to keep the MPs and MLAs in line in the same way that barbaric medieval rulers used it to capture fugitives and punish slaves. In the presidential elections, if the elected representatives can vote as they think, little harm can result. The election would be closer in selecting a person who the people want. In any case, presidential elections should not be fought on party basis. The whip is against democratic

principles and merely shows the insecurity of the leaders.

Mr A To get over these problems, I propose that the system of electing the President be changed. At present it is done on the basis of an electoral college where the value of the vote of the legislators is determined by a formula based on population of the State to which they belong to. I think the election of the President should be more direct and involve the people. I know this is not very feasible and a direct election would be very expensive and cumbersome to hold, yet that is the only way to get out of the grip of political parties with their narrow interests. Maybe each State can nominate a person and the best person can be elected. Further, though I agree that the person should be eminent, there should certainly be an age limit as well. The person should be young and dynamic and able to take bold decisions. After all, we all agree that the values in the country have declined over the years and the political system is worse than degraded. If we have a President who is a seasoned politician himself, there is no hope that the system can ever be changed. There is also a matter about our image in other countries. In order to send a message of a vibrant country ready to take on challenges, don't you think that a younger person is required at the top?

Mr B I agree with the suggestion whole-heartedly. Young people are full of idealism and can take on challenges. The systems in our country have been subverted by old people who have become past-masters at political survival. Yet, these are not the qualities that should be required in a President. Nor is a President just a ceremonial figure to give speeches which do not mean a thing. Given the rule of the corrupt, the President should be a watchdog and force the leadership to take those decisions on which it is dilly-dallying. Further, he should take initiatives on issues that are ignored by the

ministers. The Supreme Court took an activist stance last year: why should the President not do it too? After all, the country today faces a threat of being sold out. Should the President be a mere bystander in all this? He should take initiatives in solving national problems, such as improvement of Centre-State relations and in solving inter-State disputes. Some issues, which have been in the back-room for too long, should be assigned time limits by the President to be solved by the Parliament. Legislators who diminish their position by their conduct, should be sacked by the President, so that there is a little fear in the minds of elected representatives. He should also control the spending by State Governors. There is perhaps a need to give more powers to the President to enable him to act in those areas in which the Cabinet of Ministers is either unable to or incapable to act

Mr C We have had a very illuminating discussion in which we not only discussed the election of the President but also what his role should be. I think we all agree that the President should not be a mere ceremonial figure. Further, that there is no need for reservation of this post. The fact that a *dalit* can rise to become President of our country without reservation speaks for the social justice that we have achieved. Certain qualities of the incumbent were also described. Among them it was felt that he should be a younger person but learned and eminent too. Such a person would be perhaps too difficult to find. Maybe we can have an examination for the President of India, like the civil services exam, in which both qualities can be sought for. That may not be feasible, but there is no disagreement on the point that the President should be a strong individual willing to venture into areas where the Cabinet is unwilling to act. Only if we have a strong President, willing to fulfil a watchdog role, can we hope to change the politics of India. A consensus candidate, on the other hand, may simply maintain the *status quo*.

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Teaching is a specialised job. It involves being with children and young adults and helping them through courses and solving their problems. Many people have an inborn desire to do just that and for them a career in teaching is highly recommended. This feature describes the opportunities available in teaching and how to go about becoming one. Contrary to popular belief, it is not a fall-back profession if you fail in other careers, but a highly responsible one, in which you can shape the minds of tomorrow.

The teaching profession has many myths about it. It is commonly believed that anyone can teach, provided he has some knowledge of the subject. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Knowledge is just one thing that a teacher should have: among other qualities required are the ability to communicate well, to hold the attention of young minds, even in the most boring subjects, to inspire confidence and finally, the ability to set an example by word and deed. Above all, a person must have great amounts of patience. Not everyone has all these qualities. People who have PhD degrees and great amounts of knowledge often make bad teachers.

The rewards of being in teaching are also great. Financially, school teachers may not be at the top of the rung, but in colleges and universities the UGC scales apply and the total earning is a tidy sum. The best rewards, however, come from the students in terms of respect. Society still reveres its teachers and though one may not hold a very important post as far as hierarchy of jobs go, the satisfaction on seeing a pupil do well is immeasurable. In rural areas, parents of children often express their gratitude in remarkable ways. That is satisfaction in itself, even if avenues of promotions are limited in this field.

There are ample opportunities in teaching. With a number of schools open-

ing up, the opportunities have multiplied. The latest trend is that corporate houses are entering the field of education, which augurs well for salaries and benefits. Apart from salaries, one can look forward to accommodation and even subsidised food, if the school has a hostel as well.

Though most people get into teaching by accident, if one really wants to be a teacher, one should plan one's career. There are three levels in which you can enter: school, college or university. Each level calls for a different expertise. If you love to be with children, school-teaching would be a good option but if you want to be with young adults, it is better to look at the college or university. Teaching is ideal for ladies because of their in-born qualities. Since working hours are not stiff, it enables them to raise their families too. Much of the work, such as correcting papers, can be done at home.

To enter schools, you should have a B.Ed. degree. Colleges across the country offer these degrees. Some universities offer B.Ed. courses by correspondence too. One can do the M.Ed. later, to add to qualifications.

College and university teaching requires a different approach. After finishing M.A. in a subject, one can become a specialist by doing M.Phil. or Ph.D. To become a college lecturer, you will have to clear the NET exam conducted by the University Grants Commission (UGC). One can then apply to colleges for a job.

The skills that a school teacher must have are: tremendous patience and the ability to get into the mind of a child. If the classes are too crowded, there may not be an opportunity to relate to the students individually but good schools limit the size of their classes. Often, one may be caught in the race to complete the syllabus and

the child may then be neglected. But a teacher must always remember that apart from teaching, a child's character must also be shaped.

College teaching is different but the challenges are equally great. For one, the students are older. They are in the age group of late-teens, an age associated with rebellion. A teacher has to be really good to earn respect. The age is also a delicate one, as a number of negative influences exist which work on young minds. The teacher has the responsibility not only of imparting knowledge but to prevent negative influences invading the young mind. In many cases, a teacher has to be a friend, philosopher and guide to his wards. A great deal of sensitivity is needed and a teacher often makes a difference in the life of a youngster.

Likewise, university teaching is also challenging, though university teachers often do not see challenge in their work. The idea is to fuel the imagination of the young adult so that he is inspired to learn more. University teachers have an added responsibility of guiding students in various entrance and competitive exams. A professor who keeps track of these competitions will be much sought after.

There is a shortage of good teachers in the country, as many in the profession are not really interested in it. If one is good, it is possible to make a name in the profession.

Finally, it must be said that teaching as a profession is often discounted. People treat it as a timepass and join it because there may not be anything else to do. This is sad, because the profession is a noble one and requires more commitment than is commonly believed. Of course, it is the committed teachers who are looked upon. A person who takes short cuts will not find love in this profession.



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CAREERSPEAK



Punam Gupta teaches English in the Day Sagar College for Women, Chandigarh. She was a gold medalist in her college and university and was always interested in teaching. After finishing her M.A. in English, she worked in ad hoc positions in colleges for some years before she was selected for a permanent position in Day Sagar College.

Punam says she likes being with young people and helping them with their work. One of the major challenges she faces is to help students who are from rural backgrounds, who do not have much exposure to English. "Since English pervades all fields, one must be good in it," she says. "We try to make a person somewhat good in written English, so that one can do day-to-day jobs, as also in spoken English, though that is a longer task and requires a longer practice."

A training in Linguistics helps Punam to impart some skills to her students. Since the course has to be finished so fast, she cannot do a thorough job as she would like to, but tries to do the best in the given constraints.

For other students too, there is much work to be done. "Their accents may be wrong or they may be speaking in a faulty manner. This has to be corrected. Apart from that, a good command over English comes from extra reading; a habit sadly lacking in young people. When they have to improve vocabulary for competitive exams, they try to learn whole word lists which is wrong. A good vocabulary is built over time, through usage, and not through mugging the dictionary."

Apart from teaching, Punam prepares students for debates and declamations that take place in the city. "It does take a lot of time, but I like doing it. Almost every year our college wins a prize. Very often we take the help of the *Competition Master* as the topics covered in it are frequently the subject of college debates. A regular reading of the magazine helps the student to be aware of much of the current thinking in the country."

Punam's advice to students is to develop their personality as they study in schools and colleges. In competitions like civil services and MBA, it is not the bookworms who get taken. They may pass the exam, but find the interview a very difficult hurdle. So one needs to have a balanced personality. "The only way to do this is to develop oneself by playing games or taking part in other activities along with studies. Students often waste their time by chatting away. This hardly results in a positive personality."

Her advice to people wanting to get into teaching is to be thoroughly interested in it. "You have to get into it, in a way. Half measures do not work. Students respect you if you are good and helpful, so you should be aware of their world, their thinking. And you should have the ability to answer all their questions."

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- If you have used grammar or spoken English books to learn English, but did not get success.
- If you are a student, teacher, professor, doctor, CA, ICWA, CS, MBA, engineer, technician, scientist, musician, secretary, phone operator, bank officer, clerk, businessman.
- If you are highly motivated to learn simple and powerful English easily and quickly.

I Was Weak in English

I was born in Rajasthan where people are weak in English. I studied in government non-English medium schools. So, I was also weak in English.

On my way to Pilani to join B.E. at Chirawa railway station, I met one P V Reddy from Andhra Pradesh who was also going to Pilani to join B.E.

I started speaking in Hindi. Mr Reddy said "I do not know Hindi". It was a surprise and shock for me that everyone did not know Hindi. I had never talked in English before and I was not confident of talking in English. So, I said "I do not know English".

My Struggle to Learn English

In Pilani, in the first semester I was a topper with 10 out of 10 grade points, but I was not confident in English. So, I worried about my weak English. I bought many books, guides, dictionaries, newspapers.

I worked hard, but improvement was very slow. For example, I took one month to read my first novel R. K. Narayan's "The Guide" because I had to search so many words in the dictionary.

I even thought of dropping one semester, sitting at home, and learning only English. That time I used to think "Why nobody develops a research-based course to teach good simple English for non-English medium people like me? And someday I'll try."

My Dream Comes True

I continued to work hard. And finally I improved English and became a successful engineer/author in America. And, then I returned to India. Today, I am happy to offer you this course in English—my second dream has come true.

My first dream was to teach students "how to study and how to use more mind power" to get success in exams and competitions. This course has changed thousands and thousands of lives in the last few years. I am now proud of my research and contributions in India than my success in USA.

Our New Research

In English, there are many ways to say anything. Some ways are easy and some are difficult and confusing. We did research to find which are easy ways and which are difficult ways for people from non-English medium. In this process, we also discovered that some of the world's best magazines and books use the simple & powerful ways of writing English. This was an unexpected surprise discovery for our research team.

For example, we found that part of Reader's Digest uses simple & powerful ways of writing. (Because that magazine is for English speaking countries, some of the vocabulary is difficult for non-English people.)

We developed this new course only for people like you who studied in non-English medium. We believe this is the first and only such course in the world.

Author's Bio-Data

- B.E., BITS Pilani, M.Tech, IIT Kharagpur, NTSE scholar, Rank 5 Raj School Board.
- World-famous author. I published 3 computer books in USA including a best selling book costing \$27.95.
- Expert: Computers, Mind Power, Study Techniques
- My first job as an engineer paid only Rs 1000 per MONTH. Just 7 years later, I earned 50 dollars per HOUR in USA as computer expert and writer.
- At the peak of success, I returned to India to do something in our own country. Now, I spend my full time as a scientist to do research in mind power.
- I also learnt French, Sanskrit, Karate, Breaking wooden board by hand, many Meditations, etc.
- Was a member of Society for Accelerated Learning & Teaching, USA.



MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

Use Bapna's English Course for 31 days and if your English does not improve greatly, simply send it back on 32nd day by Regd Post A/D, and I will send your money (minus Rs 40 processing charge). You be the judge, no questions asked.

Ask yourself: Why is this the only English course offering money-back guarantee? Why other English courses do not offer guarantee?

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If you can understand this article, you can surely understand my course. And greatly benefit from it. Our belief and experience show that teaching English through simple English is better than teaching to translate. Why? Because it helps students to learn to think in English.

The complete course has 5 parts for easy learning:

- Part 1: Essential English
- Part 2: Important and Helpful Usage
- Part 3: How to Write in a Powerful, Effective, and Result-Oriented Way
- Part 4: Advanced Topics
- Part 5: Mini Spelling Dictionary

Part 3 is so easy and powerful that, it is worth more than the full price for the complete course.

Some of the other topics in the course are: • Two short-cuts to powerful English • Learn to use these helpful words • How to write letters • How to enhance meaning • How to remember spellings and increase vocabulary • Common usage • etc.

Benefit from My Mind Power Expertise

You may know that I am an expert in the fields of Mind Power, Study Techniques, and Computers. I have used this knowledge to make the English course easy to learn and easy to remember for you.

You begin to improve on the very first day you get this course. You learn simple and powerful English in two steps:

Step 1: Study for 1 hour per day. You can complete it in 25 to 40 days.

Step 2: For the next 2 months, revise it for 2 hours per week. After that, for the next 2 months, revise it for 1 hour per week. In this way, your improvement will become permanent.

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Keep them in your pocket to revise in school, in college, in bus, in park, in playground, etc. So, you use the time which other people waste. No other course gives you such useful pocket cards.

Improve Fluency

Being fluent means that you can say anything in English in flow without hesitation. Some people judge you from how fluent you are in English. To be fluent, you need to (1) be able to say almost anything in English (2) be sure that your sentence is correct.

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Proof of Success

- "Before joining your course I could understand English but I could not speak English. Now, I can speak powerful English." — *Govind Singh, Patna, Bihar*
- "In the past, I was not good at writing as well as speaking English. Using your course, I am able to write simple and better English without mistake and I can speak English with others without any hesitation. I completed your course in 27 days." — *V H Pandey, Allahabad, MB*
- "Good and unique course. I was average in English. Now I can write letters in simple English." — *Ashok Sharma, AP*
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If a student can learn to write simple but correct English, he can avoid many common mistakes.

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Just take my English course in your hands. It will surprise you as to how light weight it is. But, use it for just one hour and you will automatically know that my course is worth its weight in gold. Why? Because it can help you and your family to learn simple and powerful English quickly and easily.

I believe that, for people who did not study in English medium and who want to learn simple & powerful English easily in 1 to 2 months, my English course is the best available at any price.

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Questions on Social and Economic Problems

Q. What has been the impact of economic reforms on rural development? Examine.

Ans. In the earlier period of the economic plans, the vision of rural development reflected an integrated approach in which the objective of agricultural development was intertwined with the goals of poverty eradication and reduction of social and economic inequalities. It was in the mid-sixties that new technology was launched in agriculture and there now exists a dichotomy between programmes of agricultural development on the one hand and those for poverty removal on the other.

A wide-ranging process of policy reforms was initiated in July 1991. The reform process has aimed at putting the Indian economy on a higher growth path. There has been a debate on the adverse impact of economic reforms on the poor, especially during the transition period. After the reforms, rural poverty increased significantly in the first two and half years of reforms (1991, 1992 and 1993). In 1992, it was around 46% but declined to around 40% in 1993-94. As compared to 1990-91 (the pre-reform year) rural poverty was higher in 1993-94. There was, however, a decline in the severity of poverty, as the following table shows:

Year	Severity of rural poverty (FGT Index)
1989-90	0.028
1990-91	0.032
1991	0.031
1992	0.042
1993	0.032
1993-94	0.031

An increase in the incidence of rural poverty and, also, a mild decrease in the intensity of poverty has been caused mainly by three factors—stabilization measures, poor agricultural performance and increase in food prices which were responsible for a significant rise in rural poverty in 1992 and 1993

In the context of other means of development like infrastructure, facilities like water, sanitation and health it has been observed that economic reforms have not made a considerable improvement. Infrastructural facilities, in particular, are making slow progress. The government, however, has been making efforts at rural development. The outlays

*Solved Questions from RBI
Grade 'A' Examination for
Officers, 1997.*

on major rural development and social services programmes increased from Rs 40.37 billion to Rs 109.34 billion. Rural development expenditures can be understood to be those that increase employment opportunities in rural areas and enhance the infrastructure (physical and human capital in terms of health and literacy) of rural areas. Major programmes sponsored by the Central government are the Integrated Rural Development Programmes (IRDP) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). Within rural development, there has been a shift in the 1990s towards wage employment programmes such as JRY and EAS. There is also more focus on targeting of food subsidies and rural development programmes.

The Ninth Five-Year Plan now aims

to redesign the various programmes. There is also a plan to create self-managed institutions of the poor

Economic reforms have yet to create significant impact on rural development. There are still many areas that need to be given attention.

Q. What has been the significance of environment in the development plans of the country? Evaluate the schemes formulated to improve the environment.

Ans. Policy-makers in India have been of the opinion that the principle objective of management of natural resources is the maximisation of national output with the consideration that the exhaustible resources in the environment have to be used carefully and the quality of renewable resources should be maintained. Various guiding principles have to be kept in mind e.g. (a) resources should be used economically to achieve minimum waste (b) economic resources must be used in a sustained way through conservation of renewable resources and economic use of exhaustible resources (c) multiple use of resources if possible (d) integrated planning in the use of natural resources (e) exploitation of natural resources which does not result in the disturbance of the ecological balance.

The intention was to avoid the negative effects of economic development. These include mismanagement of natural resources, large-scale deforestation, the unplanned discharge of residues and wastes, the handling of toxic chemicals resulting in growth of slums and expansion of settlement activities.

- At various times, the government has laid down rules and regulations regarding the resource usage. These include (i) Three important schemes for afforestation, namely,

plantation of quick growing species, plantation of economic species, plantation raising under the scheme of rehabilitation of degraded forests (ii) Social forestry projects started to increase green coverage (iii) Promotion of methods for Increased Production (iv) Forest Development Corporations were set up (v) the New Forest Policy in 1988 (vi) the intensive agricultural district programme and high yielding varieties programme for water conservation (vii) development of fisheries (viii) New Mineral Policy in 1993 to explore new mineral opportunities keeping in mind the minimisation of adverse effects of mineral development on the forests.

However, because of poor planning and in many cases, because of mindless and ruthless exploitation of natural resources, we have degraded our physical environment. Rapid economic development has turned India into a vast wasteland. The country's forests have been viciously at-

tacked and destroyed in the last 50 years. Faulty utilisation of water resources has also resulted in adverse environmental effects. These adverse effects have been caused by dams, waterlogging, salinity, destruction of habitat of aqua-life. Mining—done in the excess—has also caused many environmental problems. Industrialisation has led to atmospheric pollution.

The new forest policy of 1988 had nothing different from the 1952 policy. The policy showed greater signs of failure in the light of the uncontrolled population and regular encroachments on forest land. The social forestry programmes also did not show much success. The so-called spectacular success of social forestry was actually the success of farm forestry undertaken by the large farmers. The programme also ignored the primary objective of ensuring for all rural households, and particularly, the landless, access to fuelwood and fodder for domestic consumption. The programme

made no effort to involve the landless in afforestation. Neither did it involve the poor women who would have been the main beneficiaries. Social forestry did little for ecological restoration for enhancing soil fertility and for water conservation.

India, inspite of being one of the wettest countries in the world, is unable to hold the water supply. Deforestation and denudation cause a major portion of water to run off. Ground water has also gone down. India continues to be highly flood-prone and drought-prone.

There is a need to change the development strategy as regards environment. Economic development seems to have enriched a few big landlords and has caused large-scale environmental degradation. It is high time that the planners review the entire position of development and environmental crisis and evolve a new process of balanced and rational development which can also preserve the environment.

II Om Shree Manjunathaya Namaha II

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Q. Describe the income inequalities prevalent in India. How have these inequalities adversely affected people's welfare?

Ans. A rough idea about the pattern of income distribution in the country shows that in rural areas, the bottom 20 per cent of the population has only 9 per cent of the aggregate income while the top 5 per cent has 17 per cent of the income. The top half has 69 per cent and the bottom has only 31 per cent. In urban areas the position is almost the same, except that the rich are richer and the many poor poorer.

The wide range of variation, that can be found between the top and the bottom tenths of the population, reveals the existence of concentration of economic power in the country. Various studies have also revealed that the relative inequality in levels of living in real terms was possibly lower in the 1970s and 1980s than the 1950s.

The unequal income distribution has been attributed to two main factors. First, unemployment and underemployment and consequent low productivity per unit of labour. Inadequate economic development, rather than structural inequalities of a distributional character, is one of the main reasons for the low level of income of the vast majority of people in the country. Second, heavy concentration of income in the hands of few people is due to widespread tax evasion.

The inequalities prevalent in the country lead to various problems in society. First, there is a constant effort on the part of a majority of rural youth to migrate to the urban areas in pursuit of the glitz and glamour they see. This only leads to intense crowding in the urban areas and related problems of housing, creation of slums, sanitation and traffic problems. Second, a feeling of deprivation on the part of a majority of people leads to an increase in crime and violent unrest. This further leads to problems for the administration.

The cycle of the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer continues in society and causes many problems. There is also a gradual decline in the level of moral values in society. Social equality seems a myth to most people and there is a feeling of disillusionment. The objective of reducing economic inequalities should include:

(a) reduction in the concentration of economic power (b) reduction in the relative disparities in earnings (c) reduction in the relative disparities in income and consumer expenditure and (d) reduction in the absolute poverty levels in society.

Q. What are the weaknesses of India's higher education system? What changes are needed in this system?

Ans. Neglect of education has been among the most important failures of India in the post colonial period. Any attempt to globalize obviously requires that our levels of education and skill formation are brought to a level where we can be internationally competitive. Although we often comfort ourselves about the fact that India has highly trained persons, this is not enough. A handful of highly qualified people cannot make an entire population internationally competitive in terms of skills and training. Policy-makers in India have not probably understood fully the importance of meaningful education.

In India, higher education suffers from a lack of careful planning and foresight. The thrust of the higher education today is in terms of extensive theoretical knowledge. There is a plethora of items that students have to study. More often than not, there is a pressure to excel in all the different options or subjects. Hence, the overall emphasis falls more on attaining degrees and achieving a 'label' or 'status symbol'. When students are pushed out into the open 'market', so to say, they do not have the kind of knowledge that can help them actually gain a proper means of living.

Second, an often debated point is the issue of subsidising higher education. Many people have said that higher education is the responsibility of the government and it becomes the duty of the government to provide higher education. There is another view that higher education should be only for those who can afford it, hence there should be no subsidising. This is a debate that could go on for long and we would find it difficult to reach a conclusion. However, it is not a discussion that can be avoided.

A mid-path must be found to reach some definite solution. There is no doubt about the fact that higher education does

not have to be only for students who can afford it. Neither should it be for each and every person—irrespective of the seriousness of the candidate. Thus, we have to evolve some definite merit criteria to sieve out people who are not interested in actually pursuing higher education.

Third, there is a restriction on the number and kind of courses that students can opt for as per their desire. This could also be because of a lack of proper teaching facilities. Otherwise, there is no logic of denying, for example, a student who has studied humanities for two years and wants to switch over to engineering or medicine after that. The only check point is the student's aptitude, performance in any entrance test whatsoever and the ability to adopt to the change by putting in the required labour.

There are thus various changes that are needed in the system which could help improve our education system. Our higher education must begin to meet the challenge and contribute to the development of technological capabilities and managerial talents. Private funding of higher education can be encouraged, particularly in technical fields. This would help introduce some accountability in the higher education system. At the same time, the government can also, and should, contribute to the advance of the system of higher education. Mindless populism, that ignores the quality of higher education, should be avoided.

The policy-makers of the country have also spelled out their plan for higher education in the outline for the Ninth plan. The government feels that in higher education, due consideration has to be given to the fact that the country has an existing infrastructure which, despite its problems, is still one of the best in the developing world. Emphasis will be placed on consolidation and optimal utilisation of the existing infrastructure through institutional networking. Restructuring the vocational bias content of the first degree course, industry linked inter-disciplinary post-graduate teaching and applied research work are other major areas to be considered. Additional resources can be generated by involving industry and commerce and also through contribution from people.

IAS (MAINS) SPECIAL

General Studies Scene

Q. 1. Describe the main causes of the rise of Indian Nationalism towards the end of nineteenth century.

Ans. It is not doubted that even before the advent of the Britishers in India, the spirit of nationalism was already prevailing in the minds of Indians. People of all religions, including Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists etc lived peacefully together. It was after the British rule that there was a phenomenal rise in the feeling of nationalism in India. This rise was not achieved overnight but was a result of many events during the nineteenth century, some important such events/causes are as under:

(a) **Economic Exploitation by the British:** During their rule, the Britishers pursued the policy of systematic exploitation of India. With a view to support the industrial revolution back at home, the Britishers exported raw materials from India at cheapest possible rates and sold the finished goods at higher rates in the vast market offered by India. This resulted in diversion of economic resources to serve the interests of the British government at the cost of Indians. The process destroyed the craftsmen and artisans and their skills, as they were unable to compete with the invasion of the manufactured and cheaply produced goods. Economic improvement resulted in the rise of the spirit of nationalism. This is considered to be one of the most important causes in this respect.

(b) **Western Education and Ideas.** Britishers introduced western education and were also responsible in propagating the modern ideas of liberty, equality, democracy and socialism among the Indians. These ideas caught the fancy of Indians who also started dreaming of an independent India. In the beginning, it was the band of educated few, who led the rising spirit of nationalism in India.

(c) **Social and Religious Movements:** The social and religious movements during the nineteenth century were also responsible to integrate the Indians emotionally. Scholars like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Swami Vivekananda and Swami Dayanand were some of the outstanding reformers who not only removed certain social and religious vices, but also revived the glory of ancient India. This finally gave a message of love to their motherland to the Indians, which resulted in the rise of nationalism.

(d) **Print Media:** Print media was mainly responsible to take the ideals of nationalism to almost every nook and corner of the country. A large number of newspapers were published from different parts of the country and majority of them was in Indian languages. Most of the newspapers, particularly the vernacular press was anti-British and widely publicised their racial arrogance, personal misbehaviour and economic exploitation of India. The efforts to muzzle the Indian press by passing the Vernacular Press

Act by Lord Lytton also bounced back and created further discontentment among the Indians.

(e) **Communication Means:** Development of modern means of Communication like Railways, Telegraph, Wireless, Postal Services and construction of roads etc brought the people of India nearer, despite regional variations and vast distances. These means facilitated the anti-British news to travel fast even to the remote corners of the country. The development of communication means helped to organise anti-British activities at all-India level, thereby resulting in the rise of strong national feeling.

(f) **Anti-Indian Behaviour of the British:** After the revolt of 1857, there was a feeling of bitterness between the Indians and the British. Even the personal behaviour of most of the Britishers towards Indians was that of arrogance and contempt. Even the behaviour of Lord Curzon and his haughty language annoyed the Indians immensely. Partition of Bengal further brought all communities together and strengthened the general belief of the Indians that the Britishers were there to divide and exploit them.

(g) **Indian National Congress:** The founding of Indian National Congress in 1885 provided with a common platform to all communities in the country to express their anti-British feelings effectively. The nationalist feeling had already started rising in the minds of the people, but the formation of Indian National Congress formalised and organised the movement.

Q. 2. "India's Foreign Capital needs are growing rapidly, despite good performance of the economy during the past over five years." Comment.

Ans. Indian economy's performance during the past 5 to 6 years has been very good and the crisis of foreign exchange reserves, faced in 1990-91, was efficiently overcome. The situation on this account appears to be satisfactory. During the past three years India has been receiving the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to the tune of over \$ 2 billion per annum, at an average. During 1996, India attracted \$ 6.4 billion foreign capital flows. Out of this amount, \$ 2.5 billion came as FDI while \$ 3.9 billion was portfolio investment. Management of foreign exchange has been good and the balance of payments have remained under control.

Even on the external debt front, the performance has been laudable. The concerned indicators showed improvements during 1995-96 and the total debt stock also declined. The total stock of debt during 1996 came down to \$ 92.2 billion, sliding down from the peak of \$ 99.01 billion in 1995. Ratio of external debt to the GDP came down drastically from 41 per cent in 1991 to 28.7 per cent in 1995-96.

Although the above indicators speak high of India's policies and foreign exchange management, yet the need for foreign exchange during the coming years is going to be enormous. As per one estimate, during the next five years, India needs a sum of \$ 100 billion to be invested in infrastructure alone, out of which majority of funds are required in terms of foreign investment in the form of import of latest machinery, equipment and skills. The needs of other sectors, including industry and agriculture, are also going to be equally large. As a result, despite good performance of the economy in the recent past, India decided to pester for a foreign aid amounting to \$ 7 billion, including \$ 2 billion from the World Bank, for the 1997-98.

During the previous financial year, India received a pledged sum of \$ 7.068 billion, while this figure for 1995-96 was \$ 6.6 billion. As per Mr Montek Singh Ahluwalia, the Union Finance Secretary, disbursement ratio of World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) loans has increased significantly during the previous fiscal year. As against the World Bank loans' average disbursement of 16 per cent, during 1995-96, disbursement for World Bank loans in India rose smartly from 13.9 per cent during the previous year to 17.8 per cent. Similarly, the ADB disbursements in India were also good and rose appreciably from 19 per cent in 1995-96 to 21 per cent during 1996-97. This has been achieved due to close monitoring of externally aided projects by the concerned States. This probably is the result of the realisation about the need of foreign capital and its urgent requirement for rapid economic development of the country.

At a time when the foreign direct investment has started pouring in, BOP position is comfortable and foreign debt, in absolute as well as relative terms, has started declining. The stage appears to be set for sizeable foreign capital investments in the country in the years to follow. The huge capital investment, needed to sustain 7 per cent growth rate of the GDP during the Ninth Plan, can only be met if the foreign capital continues to flow regularly. This would also assist in improving productivity in the country by replacing the obsolete plant and machinery by state-of-the-art technology, thereby making Indian products globally competitive, both in terms of cost of production as well as quality.

Q. 3. What are the ailments of mass media in India? How do you feel that the proposed Broadcasting Bill would overcome these problems? Critically analyse.

Ans. Among the developing countries, India has the distinction of relatively free and frank mass media, notwithstanding the fact that the TV and Radio are largely controlled by the government. But, there are certain ailments which need to be attended to, if the autonomy, reach and effectiveness of media is to be improved. First problem area is monopolised holdings in the big newspapers. The newspapers are controlled by a few big industrial houses. Vernacular and regional press is relatively weaker, except for a few big players. Secondly, the reach of newspaper depends on two things—ability to read and to pay for a newspaper. In a country like ours, where large propor-

tions of population are illiterate and poor, the reach of newspapers also gets restricted considerably. Further, TV and Radio are owned by the government, though new satellite channels have also come in the field, of late. Radio reaches the largest sections of our population, but TV is restricted by its higher cost and lack of transmission facilities.

Keeping in line with a Supreme Court Judgement delivered in February 1995 in the case titled as the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and others Vs the Cricket Association of Bengal and others (famous as Mero-cup 1993 case) the government has introduced a Broadcasting Bill in the Parliament in March 1997. The bill has been referred to a 30-member Joint Select Committee of both the Houses of the Parliament which includes the present Law Minister Mr Ramakant Khilap and three former Information and Broadcasting Ministers, including Mr V.N. Gadgil, Mr K.P. Singh Deo and Ms Sushma Swaraj. The bill in its present form, provides for establishing a Broadcasting Authority of India, which will be an autonomous body with only two official members, including Union Secretary for Information and Broadcasting and Communications. The Bill also proposes to impose cross-media restrictions to avoid monopoly holdings and a person holding 20 per cent equity in one media cannot get an operating licence for another media. In other words, a person holding 20 per cent equity in a satellite channel, cannot be granted a licence for running a newspaper. Another provision in the bill is that satellite and terrestrial broadcasters would have to obtain a licence to abide by the codes of broadcasting to be set by the Authority. The Bill also seeks to repeal the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995, as the present Bill is much more comprehensive.

The proposed Bill, though being scrutinised by the Select Committee of the Parliament, appears to have drafted with a view to obey the directions contained in the judgement of the Supreme Court, rather than aiming at removing existing maladies and pitfalls in the existing mass-media regulations and services. Detailed guidelines and rules to be framed by the government for setting up of Broadcasting Authority would only reveal the quantum of authority and autonomy proposed. The provisions introduced to prevent monopoly may only prevent ensuring plurality. If an existing newspaper buys one TV channel it cannot be termed as propagation of monopoly. While in the industrial sector, the government is trying to delicense and decontrol the procedures, the trend adopted by the proposed bill only appears to be retrograde. The cross media curbs may only restrict diversification by existing players in the fields, thereby increasing the cost and ultimately the consumer may have to pay more for non-competitively received information. This, in fact, would perpetuate the existing monopolist tendencies.

While the basic spirit of the Supreme Court Judgement is that the access to the airwaves is a fundamental right, protected under Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution, the proposed Bill appears to be imposing restrictions on this right itself.

Question Box

Q. When does the advertisement for CAT appear and in which paper?

—*Saroj Kumari, Karnal (Haryana)*

A. The admission notification for CAT appears in September. Almost all major newspapers publish the advertisement. The information is also featured in our 'Admission Alert' column.

Q. How does one apply to other institutes that participate in the CAT?

—*Sanjay Mukherjee, Birbhum (W.B.)*

A. Obtain the application forms from the institutes concerned and mention your CAT roll number in them. In the CAT form, tick the box in which information about your application to other institutes is asked.

Q. I am a student of class 12. I am very confused whether I should do B.Com. or B.B.A. Please help me decide.

—*Pooja Singh, Jalandhar (Punjab)*

A. What you do depends on your priorities. If you want a job after graduation, it is advisable to do BBA as you will be better qualified than B.Com. On the other hand, if you wish to do CA, CS, ICWA or MBA later, you would be better off with a B.Com. degree. A higher qualification would be preferable in the long run for better career prospects. With a B.Com. you may thus have more options open to you.

Q. What is the difference between PGDBM and MBA? Which is better?

—*G.B. Chandra, Hyderabad (A.P.)*

A. Only universities in India are authorised to award degrees. The MBA is a master's degree and can be done only from a university. Institutes, on the other hand, can only award diplomas. To the question, which is better of the two, there can be no real answer. Some institutes have better reputation than universities and their PGDBM is rated higher. Other institutes

have not been able to maintain quality and their diplomas are almost worthless (see COMPETITION MASTER, April '97 issue).

Q. Is there any value of an MBA degree obtained by distance learning?

—*Sandip Chaudhuri, Midnapore (W.B.)*

A. The MBA through correspondence courses was started for people who may be working in companies and who may not have an opportunity to pursue a full-time course. It is a useful means of career advancement. It is also useful for those people who have work experience and who wish to acquire a formal degree. However, for a fresh college graduate, an MBA by correspondence will have little value, especially when one is competing for a job in a company. It is also doubtful that a fresher will be able to learn the communication skills required for a managerial job, by sitting at home.

Q. My ambition is to become Prime Minister of India as I want to dedicate my life for my native land. Please tell me how I can achieve my dream.

—*Anu Arya, Hamirpur (H.P.)*

A. If you want to serve the country, there may be better ways than to become a politician. However, if you want to become the Prime Minister, you would have to enter politics. Become a leader while in college and try to get elected in the youth wing of a political party. Work your way upwards in the party hierarchy and become the leader of the party itself. Make sure the electorate is with you so that you can win elections. You can then graduate to national politics. Gradually, try to bring your party in power and you will be elected as the PM.

Q. Why is Bihar known as the "Wild West"?

—*Gaurav Singh, Patna (Bihar)*

A. "Wild West" refers to the small towns in the US which existed in the last century. As they were cut off from the rest of the country, there was no rule of the law: a situation which can be seen in Western movies. In India, there is a perception today that there is no rule of the law in Bihar. Armed gangs, train bandits and dacoities are the order of the day (see COMPETITION MASTER, May '97 issue). Hence, the State is referred to India's "Wild West".

Q. What are the basic qualifications required for MCA entrance examinations?

—*Shelly Das, Rourkela (Orissa)*

A. The basic qualification required for most MCA courses is graduation with maths as a subject. You should be strong in reasoning and logic. One of the qualities required for a career in computers is the ability to think ahead logically and to break a problem into a series of logical steps.

Q. What are the courses open for a person after class 12?

—*A.V. Dadke, Solapur (Maharashtra)*

A. A number of options exist after completing Class 12. Depending on your aptitude and interest, it may be said that the sky is really the limit. In the science stream, one can do engineering or medicine. If you have commerce subjects, the options would be B.Com or BBA. In arts, one can do B.A. with any combination of subjects. One can also look for professional training in fashion design, fine arts, interior decoration, computers or performing arts. Whichever line you choose, remember to follow your interest. Secondly, you will have to plan for the career of your choice much in advance. Don't think of looking at options after finishing class 12 but prepare for them while you are in class 10 or 11.

Q. Is computerisation of banks the only way to improve customer service in banks?

— Zafar Alam, Aligarh (UP)

A. Though computerisation helps in faster updating of accounts and instant access, it is not the only way to improve customer service. The foremost thing that is required is staff that is committed to service. Endless tea breaks and gossiping with colleagues has resulted in deterioration of services in nationalised banks. When the culture is that of coming late, having long-winded procedures and lack of courtesy, what can the computer do? A computer, after all, has to be operated by a human being. If the attitude of the employee is like a typical government *babu*, computers will be under-utilised while customers suffer. Strong unions and security of service have made bank employees no better than government employees. Computers have, in fact, given them an additional excuse for not working: mistakes are often blamed on computer errors. If there is no electricity, the bank simply stops working!

Q. What are the job prospects of a course in Merchant Banking and Financial Services?

—M.P. Rao, Chintalapudi (A.P.)

A. Though the market in financial services is depressed at present, people trained in merchant banking and financial services have bright prospects. It would be advisable to do Chartered Accountancy or MBA (Finance) for career openings in this line. Other courses offered by universities and institutes would be rated lower than these courses.

Q. I would like to take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Where should I apply and which books should I study?

—Sonali Rungta, Jaipur (Rajasthan)

A. You can obtain SAT information and forms from: Institute of Psychological and Educational Measurement, 119/25-A, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Allahabad-211 001. As for studying for the test, there are a number of books available which will give you an idea about the type of questions you can expect.

Q. I would like to become an IAS officer. Which subjects should I take in graduation?

—Rahela Ahsan, Lucknow (UP)

A. This is a common question. There is obviously no one combination of subjects that will ensure success in the IAS examination. A person must choose those subjects in which one has an interest and aptitude. This will make studying easier. Some people choose subjects which they think are 'scoring' but are unable to study, since they have no interest in them. Choose the subjects you love, and you won't have to labour in them.

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Descriptive Questions

Checking copying in examinations

Q. Suggest three effective measures to check copying in the examinations. Substantiate your views and say how the steps suggested by you would be helpful and effective.

Ans. Since passing the examination has become the 'be all and end all', the evil of copying or coercion by the bullies has acquired an institutional status or an organised distortion in the entire gamut of our educational system. Despite the highly valuable recommendations of various committees to curb this tendency of copying in examinations, the menace continues to grow in size and seriousness. The following measures, if taken with all earnestness and honesty, can go a long way in checking or curbing copying in examinations.

Since our education aims to prepare students of all categories for one examination or the other, they are always haunted by the examination phobia. One of the most effective steps to check both the fear as well as the tendency to pass the examination at all costs, is to make education relevant to our needs and the prevailing socio-economic environment. In short, education should enable students to face life as it unfolds itself rather than hanker after degrees.

On a very selective basis, we may delink degrees from jobs and thus discourage the temptation to copy in the examinations. Other measures like better vigilance, security of the supervisory staff and a drastic change in the methodology of teaching and the style of question papers and their evaluation, can help cope with the problem of copying. Certain centres known for their notoriety should be sealed during examinations and a strict

watch kept on the activities of the staff put on examination duty there.

While the country may not be prepared as yet to do away with the examination system, the partial introduction of open book system would go a long way to cure many ills afflicting the present system and its immediate victims for whom copying becomes the only short-cut to reach their illusory destination.

Television is a necessary evil

Q. 'Television is a necessary evil.' Give your views on the subject based on experience, observation and knowledge.

Ans. There is no denying the fact that after cinema, it is the television that has caught people's imagination. Television has become an inseparable part of those who wish to be informed, instructed and entertained within the four walls of their drawing or living room. Despite its many drawbacks, the small screen has come to enjoy a unique place and position in our day-to-day life. Guy Lyon Playfair, a British writer and TV hater, has described TV as the most powerful narcotic known to mankind. According to him, millions of people around the world are as addicted to TV as drug addicts and alcoholics are addicted to narcotics and liquor. Television addiction is more powerful because it costs almost nothing in contrast to drugs and liquor, which may be prohibitive because of their high rates.

However, television has many good things to offer. Television provides a unique and rare exposition of those places and people, about whom we may have read a lot but failed to visualise their ground realities.

Psychologists are of the view that tele-

vision leaves a lasting impression on the minds of a growing child. The adolescents digest most of the noxious dross which is dished out to them through the small screen. The grown ups develop lethargy by remaining glued to the idiot box, with the result that they tend to become obese, which in turn is the root cause of so many ailments.

Glorification of crimes and violence in films and serials leaves a bad taste in the mouth but the fact remains that most of the viewers of TV are not prepared to free themselves from its captivity. On the positive side, TV encourages physical pursuits like trekking, horse riding, adventure sports, if events are properly prepared and presented.

A study conducted by Western mass communications researchers indicates that men and women clearly relate in contrasting ways to television, not only in programme preferences but also in viewing styles. "What we call viewing habits are not a static set of characteristics inhabited by an individual or a group of individuals—they are the temporary result of a never-ending, dynamic and conflict-ridden process in which the fine-grained relationships between meaning, pleasure, use and choice take shape", the study concludes.

Police versus people

Q. Quite often police and other law enforcing agencies become the subject of criticism for their alleged high-handedness. Suggest some suitable steps that may help improve their image and working among the people.

Ans. Almost five decades after India's independence, the image of police and other law-enforcing agencies has

hardly shown any significant improvement as far as their attitude towards the people at large is concerned. Over the years, instead of instilling confidence among the people, a sort of aversion and contempt has been created. Though cases of police highhandedness, custodial deaths, use of third degree methods and the like, keep appearing in the press and other media, no serious attempt seems to have been made to set the things right and transform the image of police forces into that of people's friend and the real defenders of law and order.

Instead of going whole hog to overhaul the police forces to keep them in tune with the changing socio-economic scenario, only patch-work changes have been attempted by the powers-that-be. The crying need of the hour is to make the police forces adequate in number and mentally (psychologically) upgraded to meet the new challenges and situations with a human face. For this purpose the contents and contours of their training and mental make-up will have to be changed so that they do not represent the ugly face of indifference, corruptibility of temper and excessive use of force. The correctness of means and methods, of laws and regulations on their part and practice, need to be drilled into their minds from time to time.

In some cases, like providing fool-proof security to the VIPs, fighting insurgency and anti-national elements, the police forces have to work under very stressful circumstances. This aspect of their working conditions needs in-depth study and scrutiny so that unnecessary strain is taken off from their over-taxed nerves. Provocation of all types should be avoided and whatever is their due in the form of respectable salaries, houses for their families, medical care and education for their dependents, should be the first and foremost concern of the State.

It is a high time now that we give a new twist and thrust to the police training,—to the contents and courses—and associate psychologists, sociologists and other eminent public men during their training. Public relations and sanctity of human rights on the part of police forces

is as essential as air, water and sunshine for survival. In order to refurbish their bruised image, the aims, attitudes and approaches of the police forces should undergo changes from time to time. If we fail to act now, police shall continue to present an image of torture and terror.

Removal of subsidies

Q. Some people feel that subsidies are a luxury (drain) on the national exchequer and therefore they should be withdrawn. Give two arguments in favour and two against the proposition. Arguments in favour of the proposition

1. Kudos to the Finance Minister who has shown a rare courage of conviction in the present day politics for advocating to have a realistic approach to the problem of subsidies. Till now, public men and politicians alike have treated the subject of subsidies like a sacred cow and any talk of their curtailment or removal was considered an act of sacrilege. If some right thinking persons feel that subsidies are a drain on the national exchequer their opinion should be given due respect if we want to achieve a stable growth of our economy.

2. Where is the justification to fritter away so much money by way of free electricity and water to the rich farmers to enable them to have air-conditioned palatial houses? Why should the State subsidise diesel for the truck owners and others so that they may make a pretty packet and have a joy ride in the diesel-run cars and other modes of transport? With ten per cent deficit it is no wonder that we have not been able to push up our growth rate beyond six per cent, though the South-East Asian countries have been having growth at rates exceeding ten per cent. Of course, subsidies create distortions and encourage populism and competitive politics of the worst order. The earlier they are removed, the better for the economic health of the country.

Arguments against the proposition

1. The advocates of the proposition, though premature and preposterous in concept and concrete action, should know that removal of subsidies in one go, can cause untold misery to the millions, who

are unable to make both ends meet simply on market prices of essential goods. With nearly one-third of India's population living below the poverty line and social services in a complete state of disarray, any proposal to withdraw subsidies is fraught with unprecedented adverse consequences for the very poor, down-trodden and under-privileged. If the grant and continuance of subsidies have developed some distortions over the years, the wisdom lies in correcting the course of action and objective and not in throwing away the baby along with the bath water.

2. The happenings in the present-day Russia should open the eyes of those who are keen to see the subsidies to be thrown lock, stock and barrel into the nearest gutter. A country whose population has subsisted on subsidies, can ill-afford to face the harsh market forces, where even a loaf of bread in the open market has become a luxury. After the removal of subsidies things would go hay-wire and all tall talk of economic growth, liberalisation and the like would become a mere mirage, with no substantial improvement in the lives of those who exist at the lowest rung of the polity.

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TEST OF REASONING—I

Which number does not fit in the series of numbers given below:

- 1 4, 8, 10, 27, 16, 64
(a) 8 (b) 10 (c) 27 (d) 16 (e) 64
- 2 3, 7, 15, 32, 63, 127
(a) 3 (b) 15 (c) 32 (d) 63 (e) 127
- 3 3, 4, 12, 48, 578
(a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 12 (d) 48 (e) 578
- 4 100, 121, 148, 169, 196
(a) 100 (b) 121 (c) 148 (d) 169 (e) 196
- 5 23, 32, 49, 74, 56, 65
(a) 23 (b) 32 (c) 49 (d) 74 (e) 65
- 6 380, 288, 216, 162, 121 5
(a) 380 (b) 288 (c) 216 (d) 162 (e) 121 5
- 7 6, 7, 11, 18, 36
(a) 6 (b) 7 (c) 11 (d) 18 (e) 36
- 8 8 11, 17, 29, 51, 101
(a) 11 (b) 17 (c) 29 (d) 51 (e) 101

In questions 9 to 11, four out of five pairs of numbers have the same relationship between them. Your task is to find out the one that is different

- 9 (a) 7 48 (b) 1 3 (c) 3 8
(d) 10 99 (e) 8 63
- 10 (a) 9 16 (b) 36 49 (c) 81 100
(d) 1 4 (e) 25 64
- 11 (a) 16 28 (b) 10 15 (c) 26 39
(d) 22 33 (e) 4 6

In questions 12 to 14, the arrangement of numbers follows the same pattern. Your task is to find out the right number for the box with question-mark.

- 12

18		
4	9	
3	5	?

 (a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3
(d) 4 (e) 5

- 13

?		
9	25	
5	16	3

 (a) 32 (b) 36 (c) 38
(d) 40 (e) 42

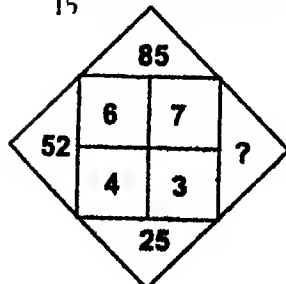
- 14

22		
?	16	
4	15	1

 (a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3
(d) 4 (e) 5

Find out the missing numbers/letters:

15



- (a) 100 (b) 62 (c) 65
(d) 58 (e) 54

16

D	E	G	J	N
W	N	F	?	S

- (a) T (b) Y (c) L (d) B (e) P

17

J	M	?	T	X
O	L	H	E	A

- (a) N (b) M (c) Q (d) P (e) K

Find the odd-man out:

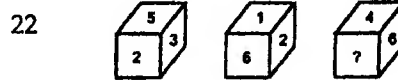
- 18 (a) PSW (b) GJM (c) HKO
(d) SVZ (e) DGK
- 19 (a) MLJG (b) TSON (c) HGEB
(d) UTRO (e) YXUR
- 20 (a) BEHK (b) JMPS (c) NQSV
(d) IORU (e) GJMP

In questions 21 and 22, three positions of a dice are given. Find out the number of the face with question mark.



21

- (a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 4 (d) 6



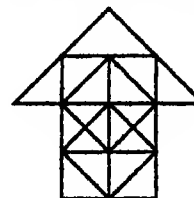
22

- (a) 2 (b) 1 (c) 3 (d) 5

23 Four out of five words given below are related to the word 'LITERATURE' in the same way. Try to find out the one that is different:

- (a) LITERATE (b) LATE (c) TRUE
(d) TREAT (e) TEAR

Questions 24 and 25 are based on the figure given below:



24 How many squares are there in the figure shown above?

- (a) 6 (b) 8 (c) 9 (d) 10 (e) 11

25 Count the number of triangles in the figure

- (a) 28 (b) 30 (c) 36 (d) 32 (e) 34

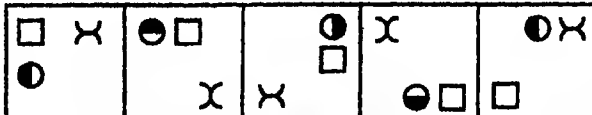
NON-VERBAL SERIES

Given below are two sets of figures, the Problem Figures and the Answer Figures marked A, B, C, D and E. You have to find out which of the Answer Figures would come next in the series of Problem Figures.

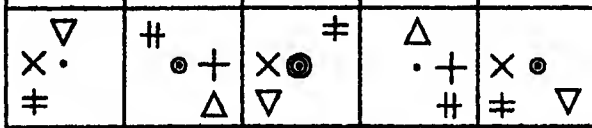
PROBLEM FIGURES

ANSWER FIGURES

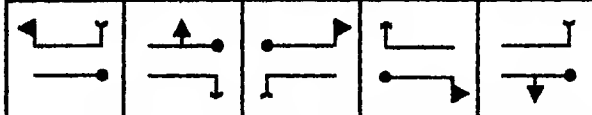
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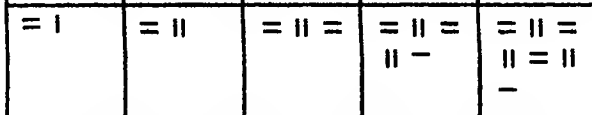
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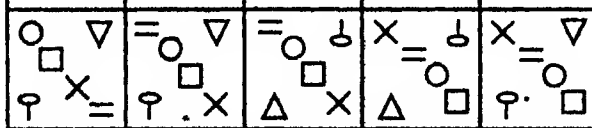
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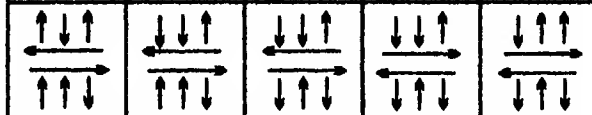
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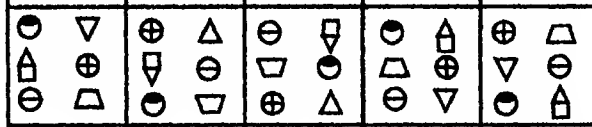
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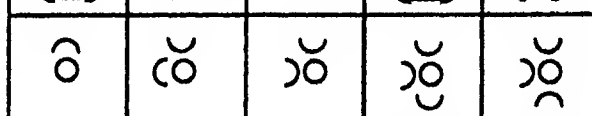
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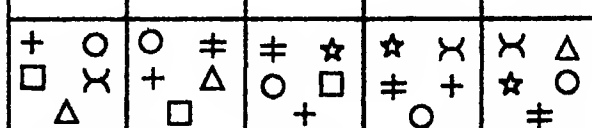
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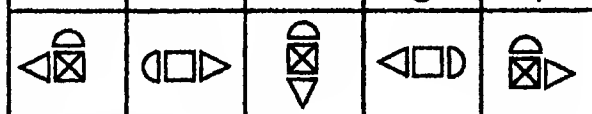
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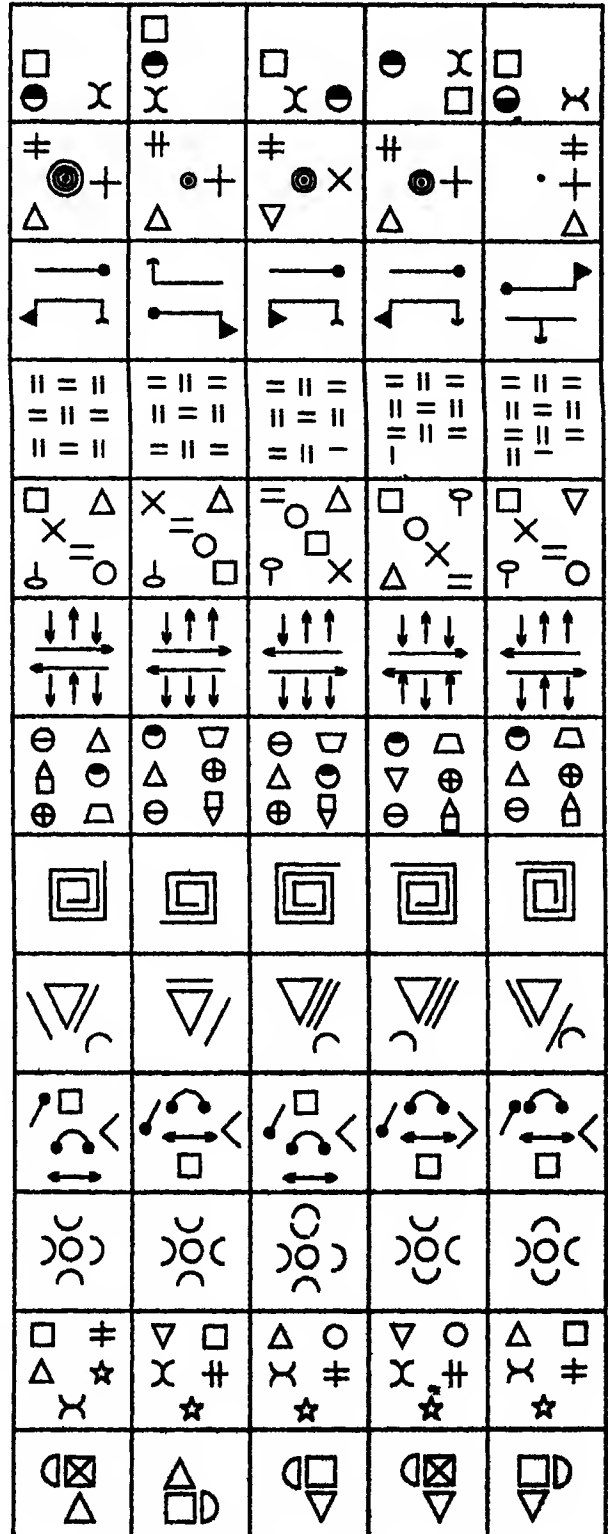
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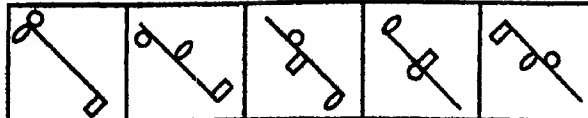
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E



39.



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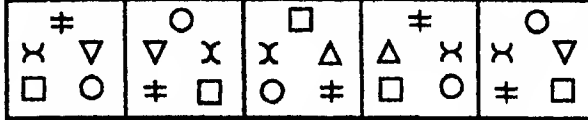
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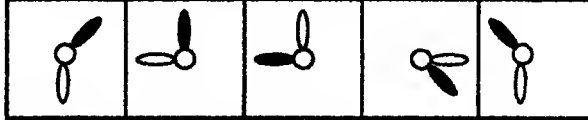
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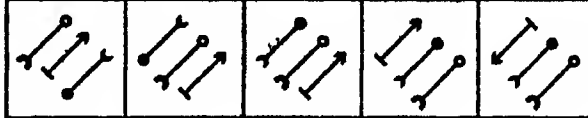
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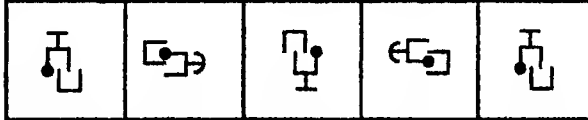
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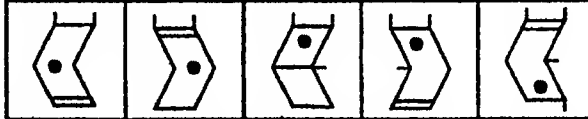
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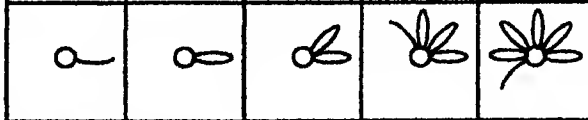
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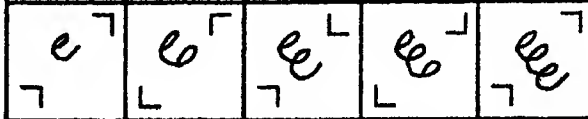
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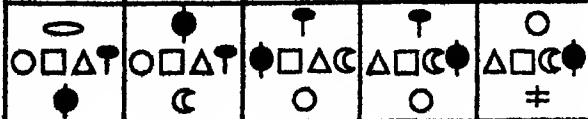
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52.



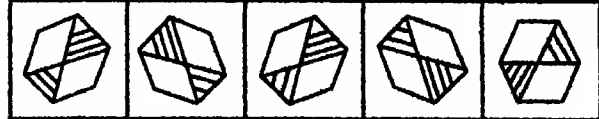
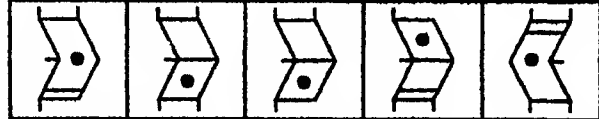
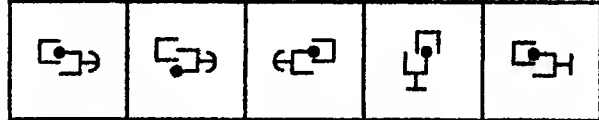
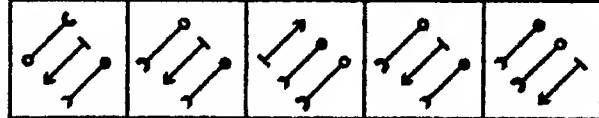
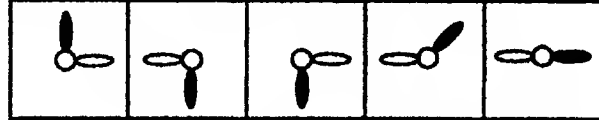
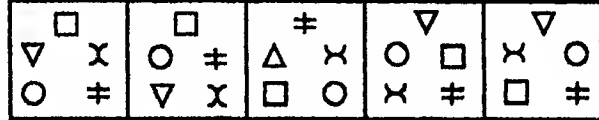
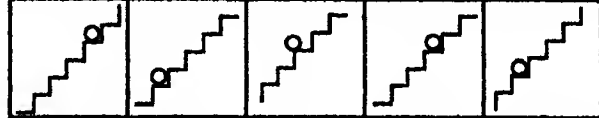
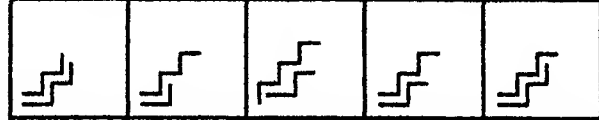
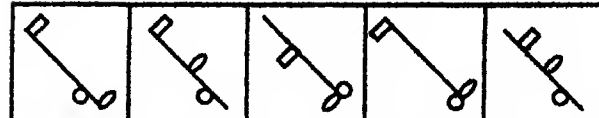
A

B

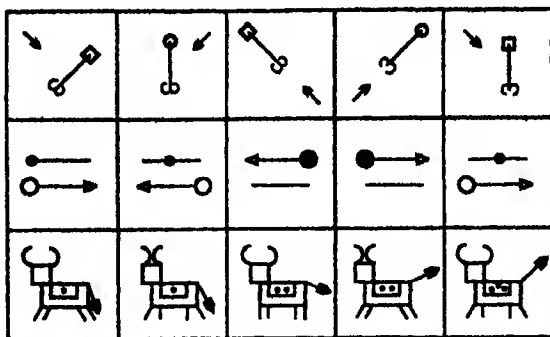
C

D

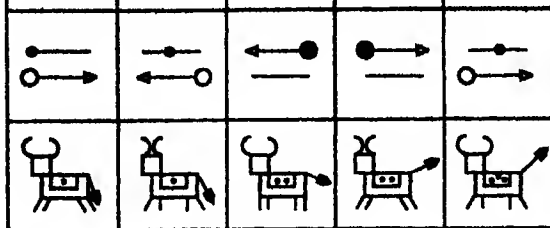
E



53.



54.



55.



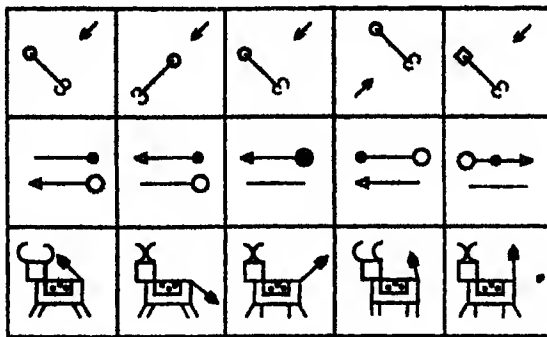
A

B

C

D

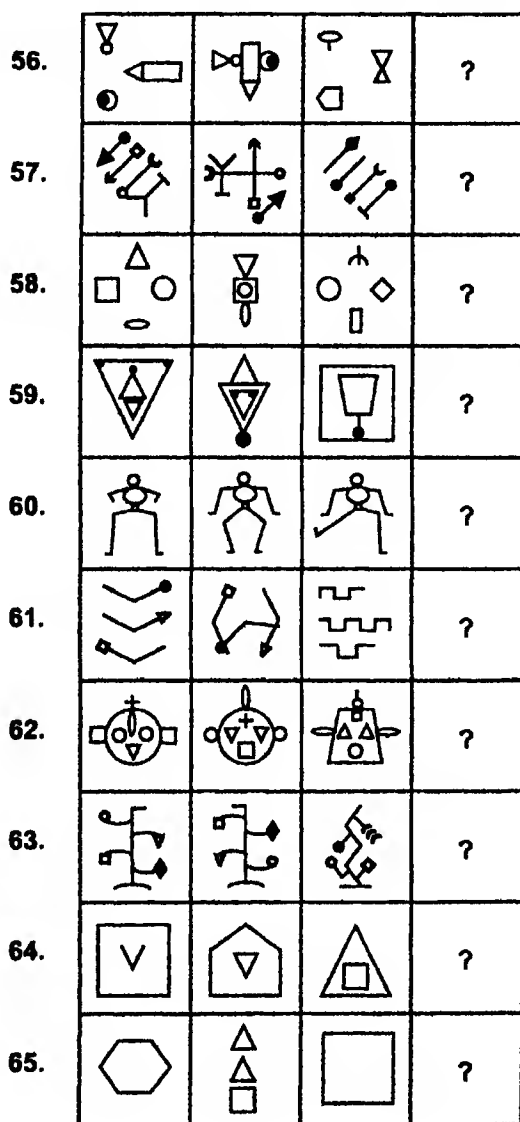
E



Given below are two sets of figures, the Problem Figures I, II, III and IV and the Answer Figures A, B, C, D and E. Your task is to find out which of the Answer Figures has the same relationship with Figure III as Figure II has to Figure I.

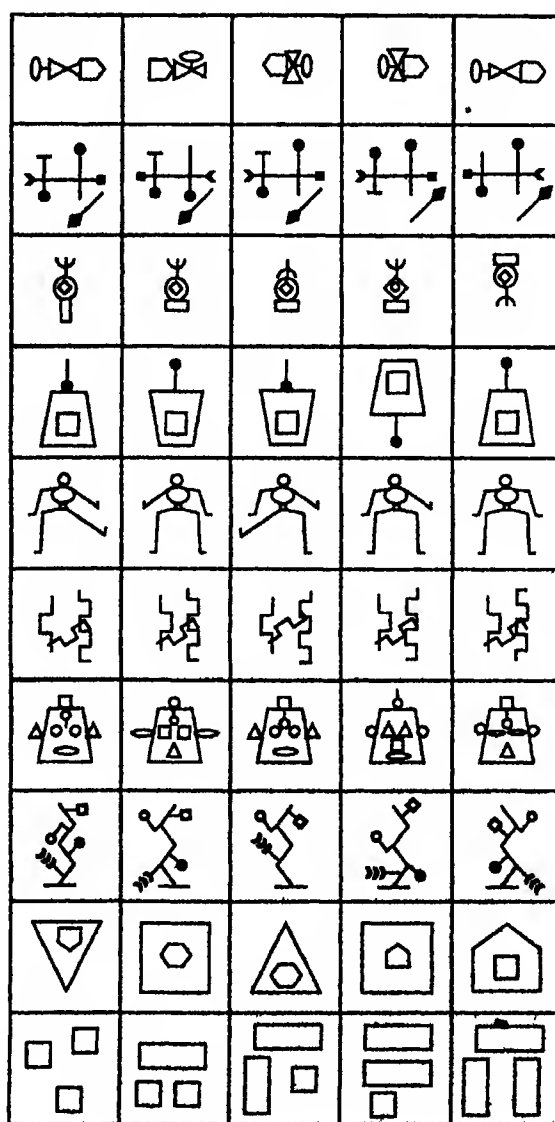
PROBLEM FIGURES

I II III IV

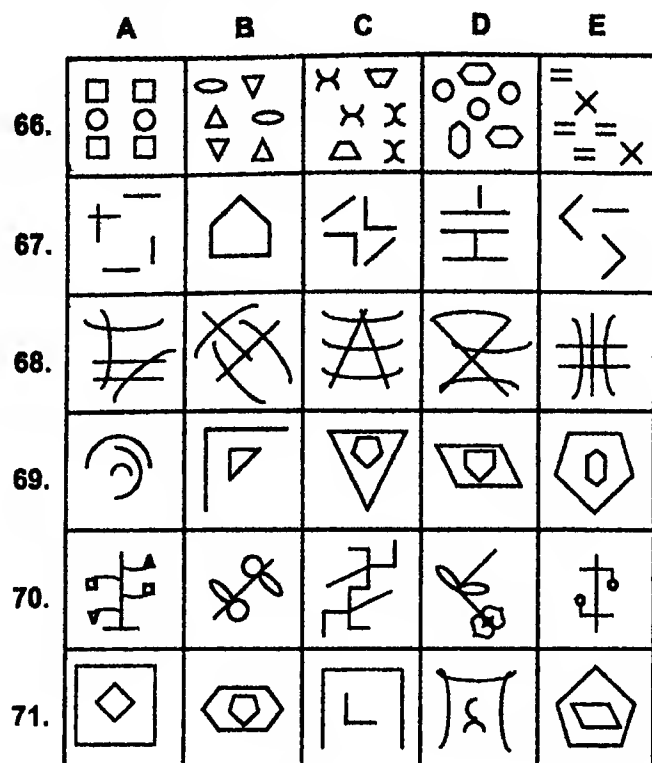


ANSWER FIGURES

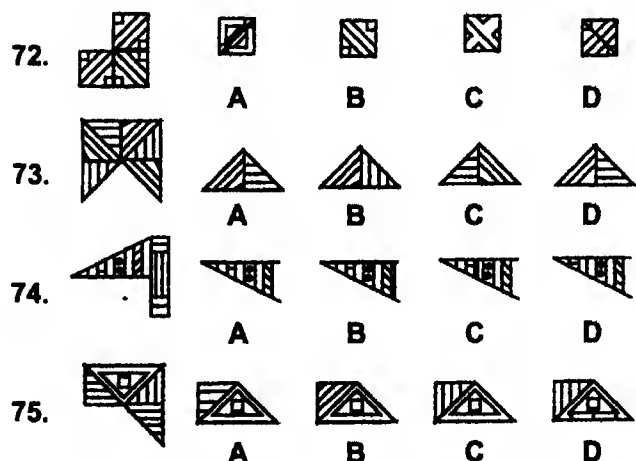
A B C D E



Find the odd-man out:



Find out the missing portion:



ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- (b) Ought to be 9. The series is $2^2; 2^3; 3^2; 3^3; 4^2; 4^3 \dots$
- (c) Each number is double plus one of the preceding number, hence ought to be 31.
- (e) Ought to be 576 as each number is the product of its two preceding numbers.
- (c) Ought to be 144, as the series is $10^2; 11^2; 12^2; 13^2 \dots$
- (d) Make sets of two and reverse the digits of the preceding number to get the second number.
- (a) Ought to be 384 as each following number is three

fourth of the preceding number.

- (d) Go on adding $1^2; 2^2 + 3^2 \dots$ to numbers hence $11 + 9 = 20$ would be the right number.
- (d) Each number ought to be double minus five of the preceding number.
- (b) The arrangement is $x \cdot x^2 - 1$.
- (e) In all the others the two numbers are squares of consecutive numbers, e.g. $3^2; 4^2; 6^2; 7^2; 9^2; 10^2$.
- (a) In all the others, the numbers are in the proportion of 2:3
- to 14. The arrangement is (example question 12).
 $3^2 = 9; 2^2 = 4; 9 - 4 = 5; 3 + 4 + 2 + 9 = 18$
- (b) 13. (e) 14. (a)
- (d) It would be $7^2 + 3^2 = 58$.
- (b) Go clockwise and drop one extra letter from the alphabet each time.
- (c) Again go clockwise, the gap between the letters is 2, 3, 2, 3...
- (b) 19. (e) 20. (c) 21. (b) 22. (b)
- (d) In all the others, the letters picked up for forming the word have been used without any change in their order
- (e) 25. (c)

For solving the next type of questions, you have to study each figure independently as well as in relationship with the other figures. The following guide-lines may prove useful

- The movement of the figure may be clockwise, anti-clockwise, right to left, up and down or vice-versa, from corner to corner or along certain points. All the figures in the question may not move in the same direction
- The movement of the figures in a question may be at a different pace and turn. Some may gain or lose a step with each movement and some may have a regular pace (Examples: questions 26, 28, 30, 35, 52 etc)
- The figures may change size or shape alternately or according to a set pattern during movement or at their place (Examples: questions 27, 53 etc)
- The figures may interchange places according to a set pattern (Examples: questions 30, 32, 43, 52 etc)
- Something may be added or dropped with each step. Some figure may disappear and then appear again. (Examples: questions 29, 33, 36, 40, 41, 48, 49, 50 etc)
- The figures may remain at their place as such and some of their part or unit may change according to a set pattern. (Examples: questions 31, 47, 55 etc)

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. A | 27. D | 28. D | 29. B | 30. E |
| 31. B | 32. C | 33. A | 34. D | 35. B |
| 36. A | 37. E | 38. C | 39. A | 40. C |
| 41. D | 42. B | 43. A | 44. E | 45. D |
| 46. A | 47. C | 48. E | 49. B | 50. A |
| 51. D | 52. D | 53. C | 54. A | 55. E |
| 56. A | 57. C | 58. B | 59. E | 60. B |
| 61. A | 62. C | 63. D | 64. D | 65. B |

- D. In all the others one type of figures are two in number and the other type of figures four.
- C. In all the others, the total number of straight lines is five.
- E. All the others have two straight lines and three curves, here the arrangement is opposite
- C. The inner figure should have only one side extra; this one has two
- D. The figures have the same pattern on opposite sides.
- A. The inner figure ought to have one side less
- B 73. D 74. A 75. C

TEST OF REASONING—II

Find the odd-man out:

1. (a) Moon (b) Saturn (c) Venus
(d) Jupiter (e) Earth
2. (a) rice (b) wheat (c) jute
(d) millet (e) pulses
3. (a) Ganga (b) Brahmaputra (c) Narmada
(d) Mahanadi (e) Krishna
4. (a) Pyramids (b) Taj Mahal (c) Qutub Minar
(d) Hanging Gardens (e) Tower of Pisa
5. (a) bottle (b) mug (c) cup
(d) glass (e) spoon
6. (a) depressed (b) successful (c) happy
(d) jubilant (e) sad
7. (a) scooter (b) bicycle (c) car
(d) train (e) truck
8. (a) guitar (b) violin (c) drum
(d) veena (e) sarod

In questions 9 to 16, the two given words have certain relationship. Your task is to find out from (a), (b), (c) and (d) the pair of words with identical relationship.

9. brick : clay
(a) pottery : tea set (b) cloth : silk
(c) furniture : wood (d) book : read
10. hair : head
(a) crop : field (b) teeth : mouth
(c) hand : arm (d) liver : stomach
11. print : colour
(a) stone : statue (b) bread : butter
(c) song : notes (d) water : thirst
12. emerald : ruby
(a) gold : mineral (b) fish : water
(c) food : drink (d) orange : mango
13. fight : war
(a) small : big (b) death : mourning
(c) play : game (d) smile : laughter
14. bitter : sweet
(a) plain : mountain (b) flood : drought
(c) sing : dance (d) truth : witness
15. tongue : teeth
(a) heart : ribs (b) foot : leg
(c) head : face (d) chest : waist
16. food : starvation
(a) brains : studies (b) strength : health
(c) fatigue : work (d) rain : famine

Match questions 17 to 22 with (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) on the basis of similar relationship among the items. The order of items may not be the same.

17. algebra : geometry : trigonometry.
(a) sea : fish : ship
18. space : comet : star.
(b) country : city : State
19. gold : coins : ornaments
(c) blue : red : black
20. water : drink : wash
(d) purse : leather : shoe
21. skin : bone : marrow
(e) medicine : healing : prevention

22. game : cards : bridge

(f) garment : trousers : jeans

In questions 23 to 27, some words are given. The words are also given in codes, each small letter representing one letter from the word. Your task is to find out the right code for letters enclosed in box.

23. M O N D A Y

(a) x (b) p (c) z (d) s (e) g (f) h

24. F R I E N D

(a) u (b) h (c) y (d) x (e) w (f) k

25. B I N D E R

(a) k (b) w (c) h (d) j (e) u (f) x

26. A C T I O N

(a) h (b) k (c) v (d) z (e) s (f) q

27. M E N T A L

(a) v (b) f (c) g (d) h (e) z (f) u

28. According to a code 'SUMMER' is 'TWPQJX', then in the same code 'SPRING' would be:

- (a) TRTLRM (b) TSUNSN (c) TQTKRM
(d) TSTKSM (e) TRUMSM

29. In a certain year, Mahatma Gandhi's birthday (2nd October) fell on Wednesday. His death anniversary (30th January) now would fall on:

- (a) Thursday (b) Saturday (c) Monday
(d) Tuesday (e) Sunday

Six soldiers A, B, C, D, E and F are standing in a line facing an officer.

F is between D and C.

B is to the left of E.

There are two persons between D and E

A or B are not at any extreme corner.

30. Who are on the two corners?

- (a) D and E (b) F and D (c) D and C
(d) C and E (e) Can't say

31. A is between:

- (a) C and B (b) B and D (c) B and F
(d) D and F (e) C and D

Ram Lal, an old man started from his home to go to temple. He went 1 km east, turned right, went 1 km, again turned right, covered 1 km; then he turned left and after walking for two kms he reached the temple.

32. How far is the temple from Ram Lal's house as the crow flies?

- (a) 2 kms (b) 3 kms (c) 4 kms
(d) $\sqrt{2^2 + 3^2}$ kms (e) $\sqrt{1^2 + 3^2}$ kms

33. Ram Lal started at a speed of 5 kms per hour, but being old, he got more and more tired. The first km, he covered at the usual speed but for each next km he took 2 minutes more than the previous one. If he started at 5 P.M. when did he finally reach the temple?

- (a) 6 P.M. (b) 6.10 P.M. (c) 6.20 P.M.
(d) 6.25 P.M. (e) 6.30 P.M.

Questions 34 to 36 are based on the series of letters given below:

DBRFDBDBFRFDBDRHRDBFDB
RFRDBHB

34. Which two letters occur equal number of times?

- (a) R and F (b) B and R (c) D and R
(d) D and F (e) B and D

35. The ratio in the frequency of D and R is:

- (a) 1:2 (b) 2:3 (c) 4:3
(d) 1:3 (e) None of these

36. How many Bs are preceded by D but not followed by

F?

- (a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) 6 (e) 7

37. A firm placed an order for some tables and tripods (three-legged small tables for support). The carpenter made 32 tops and 111 legs. How many tables were ordered?

- (a) 12 (b) 15 (c) 10 (d) 14 (e) 17

A Tourist Guide Office needed four tourist guides who could speak and understand one Indian language other than Hindi and one European language besides English. The persons appointed were Rakesh, Mohan, Sharad and Hemant who knew one additional Indian language and one European language each. The Indian languages the guides could speak fluently were Bengali, Marathi, Tamil and Gujarati and the European languages were Spanish, French, Russian and German but not in the same order.

Rakesh and Mohan do not know Russian or Spanish. Sharad and Hemant are not fluent in Bengali or Gujarati. Mohan and Sharad do not know Marathi or French. The person who knows Tamil does not know Spanish. The person who knows German does not know Gujarati.

38. Which two languages does Hemant know?

- (a) Tamil and Russian (b) Marathi and French
(c) Marathi and Spanish (d) Tamil and German

39. Who knows Russian?

- (a) Sharad (b) Hemant
(c) Rakesh (d) Mohan

40. Which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Sharad does not know Tamil or Spanish.
(b) Sharad and Rakesh do not know Gujarati
(c) The person who knows Bengali knows French as well.
(d) The person who knows French knows Gujarati as well.

SYLLOGISMS

In each question below are given two statements followed by four conclusions, numbered, I, II, III and IV. You have to take the two given statements to be true even if they seem to be at variance with commonly known facts. Read all the conclusions and then decide which of the given conclusions logically follow from the two given statements, disregarding commonly known facts.

Statements:

41. 1. All songs are poems.
2. Some poems are comics.

Conclusions:

- I. Some songs are comics.
II. Some comics are not poems.
III. No comic is a song.
IV. All poems are songs.
(a) Only I and II follow. (b) Only III and IV follow.
(c) Either II or IV follows. (d) Either I or III follows.
(e) None follows.

Statements:

42. 1. Some newspapers are books.
2. Some magazines are books.

Conclusions:

- I. Every book is either a newspaper or a magazine.
II. Some books are neither magazine nor newspaper.
III. Some books are newspaper as well as magazine.
IV. No book is a newspaper as well as magazine.
(a) Either I or III follows. (b) Only II and IV follow.
(c) Only II and III follow. (d) All the four follow.
(e) Only one of the four follows.

Statements:

43. 1. All dogs are goats.
2. All goats are bulls.

Conclusions:

- I. Only some dogs are bulls.
II. All dogs are bulls.
III. Some goats are not dogs.
IV. All bulls are goats.
(a) Only I follows. (b) Only II follows.
(c) Only III follows. (d) Only IV follows.
(e) None follows.

Statements:

44. 1. All students are teachers.
2. No doctor is a teacher.

Conclusions:

- I. No doctor is a student.
II. Some teachers are doctors.
III. All teachers are students.
IV. Some students are doctors.
(a) Only I follows. (b) Only II follows.
(c) Only III follows. (d) Only I and II follow.
(e) Only IV follows.

Statements:

45. 1. Trees are higher than buildings.
2. Buildings are shorter than poles

Conclusions:

- I. Poles are higher than trees.
II. Trees are higher than poles.
III. Buildings are higher than poles and trees.
IV. Trees and poles have the same height.
(a) Only I and II follow. (b) Only III and IV follow.
(c) Either II or IV follows.
(d) Only one from I, II and IV follows.
(e) Any one of the four follows.

Statements:

46. 1. Some friends are enemies.
2. Some enemies are colleagues.

Conclusions:

- I. Some friends are colleagues.
II. Some colleagues are not enemies.
III. No friend is a colleague.
IV. Every colleague is either a friend or an enemy.
(a) Only II and III follow. (b) Either I or III follows.
(c) Either II or IV follows. (d) Only IV follows.
(e) None follows.

Statements:

47. 1. Some cups are glasses.
2. All glasses are buckets.

Conclusions:

- I. Some glasses are not cups.
II. All buckets are glasses.
III. Some cups are buckets.
IV. Some buckets are either glasses or cups.
(a) Only I follows. (b) Only II follows.

- (c) Only III follows. (d) Only IV follows.
(e) None follows.

Statements:

48. 1. All aeroplanes are buses
2. All trains are buses.

Conclusions:

- I. All buses are aeroplanes as well as trains.
II. Every bus is either an aeroplane or a train
III. Some aeroplanes are trains.
IV. No bus is a train.

- (a) Only I follows. (b) Only II follows.
(c) Only III follows (d) Only IV follows.
(e) None follows.

In each question below is given a statement followed by three assumptions numbered I, II and III. An assumption is something supposed or taken for granted. You have to consider the statement and the assumptions and then decide which of the assumptions is implicit in the statement. Then decide which of the answers is correct

Statement:

49. 'In a letter to the Prime Minister, the leaders of opposition party held the government indirectly responsible for the CRB scam in which more than two lakh small investors were cheated.'

—A report

Assumptions:

- I. It is the responsibility of the government to keep a track of the activities of such groups and check such scams.
II. Big investors did not invest money in CRB.
III. The opposition party promptly reminds the government of its responsibilities if there is any slackness.

- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.
(c) Only I and III are implicit. (d) None is implicit.
(e) All are implicit.

Statement:

50. Medication and life-saving drugs have become too costly for the vast majority.

Assumptions:

- I. The majority of people are not very well off.
II. The government has no arrangement for supplying life-saving medicines to the poor class.
III. Medicines were cheaper some time back.
(a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.
(c) Only III is implicit. (d) Either I or II is implicit.
(e) Only I and III are implicit

Statement:

51. With the liberalization of the Indian economy, industrial designing has increasing potential in the country.

Assumptions:

- I. Industrial designing is comparatively a new course.
II. Liberalization of the Indian economy would result in more and more industries for the country.
III. The old industries are technically not properly designed.
(a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.
(c) Only III is implicit. (d) All are implicit.
(e) None is implicit.

Statement:

52. Workers, working in recycling units of plastics, specially those that make plastic carry-bags, have respiratory problems like coughing and wheezing.

Assumptions:

- I. Plastics in general are injurious to health.
II. The plastic industries do not give any medical facility to their workers.
III. Plastic industries are not harmful, it is only the recycling that affects the health adversely.

- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.
(c) Only III is implicit. (d) None is implicit.
(e) Anyone of the three is implicit.

Statement:

53. Hindu women observe many fasts with the hope that they would get the same husband in their next birth.

Assumptions:

- I. The husbands of these women are exceptionally good persons with distinct qualities.
II. Women belonging to other religions do not want to be tied up to the same man, birth after birth.
III. Hindus believe in reincarnation.

- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.
(c) Only I and III are implicit. (d) Only III is implicit.
(e) All the three are implicit.

Statement:

54. About 8 lakh people die every year due to tobacco-related diseases like mouth-related cancer, gastroenteritis and ulceration

Assumptions:

- I. The persons who do not consume tobacco never suffer from any of the diseases mentioned above.
II. Tobacco affects health adversely.
III. Tobacco-chewing is more harmful than smoking.

- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.
(c) Only III is implicit.
(d) Any one of the three is implicit.
(e) None is implicit.

Statement:

55. Some vacancies in an office have not been filled up for the last two years.

Assumptions:

- I. The authorities have been unable to find out suitable candidates.
II. The department lacks finances hence the vacancies are lying as such.
III. The office has sufficient staff hence the work is not suffering.

- (a) Only I and II are implicit.
(b) Only II and III are implicit.
(c) Only I and III are implicit.
(d) Any one of the three is implicit.
(e) None is implicit.

Statement:

56. It was Marco Polo's accounts that first aroused and excited European interest in the East.

Assumptions:

- I. Marco Polo was the first European who visited East and returned to Europe.
II. Europe is not so interesting as the East is.
III. Marco Polo's account of his travels was very interesting.

- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.
(c) Only III is implicit. (d) Only I and II are implicit.
(e) Only I and III are implicit.

In each question below is given a statement followed by three

courses of actions, numbered I, II and III. A course of action is a step or administrative decision to be taken for follow-up, improvement or further action in regard to the problem, policy etc on the basis of information given in the statement. You have to assume everything in the statement to be true, then decide which of the three suggested courses of action logically follow for pursuing.

Statement:

57. Illiteracy, superstitions and traditions force parents to marry their children when they ought to attend school.

Courses of Action:

- I. The hazards of child marriage should be made known to the masses through programmes like *Nukkad Natak* and puppet shows.
 - II. The persons responsible for carrying out the ceremony should be severely punished.
 - III. Such marriages should be declared illegal
- (a) Only I follows. (b) Only I and II follow
(c) Only III follows. (d) Only II and III follow
(e) All the three follow.

Statement

58. There is a great tension in the city due to the death of a person in police custody.

Courses of Action

- I. Heavy compensation should be paid to the members of the dead person's family.
 - II. All the policemen appointed in that particular area should be suspended immediately
 - III. A probe should be ordered into the matter
- (a) Only I follows.
(b) Only I and II follow
(c) None follows.
(d) Only II follows
(e) Only III follows.

Statement

59. The educationists feel that school bags of little children are too heavy for them.

Courses of Action

- I. A special peon should be appointed by schools to carry children's bag.
 - II. The courses should be so framed that children acquire knowledge through games or practical lessons rather than from books.
 - III. The courses should be shortened.
- (a) Only I and II follow. (b) Only II and III follow.
(c) Only II follows. (d) Only I follows.
(e) Only III follows.

Statement:

60. Two AIDS patients have been located in a village.

Courses of Action:

- I. The patients should be ordered to remain in total isolation.
 - II. The villagers should be made aware of the causes and hazards of AIDS.
 - III. All the members of their family should be asked to take a diagnostic test.
- (a) Only I follows.
(b) Only II follows.
(c) Only III follows.
(d) Only II and III follow.
(e) Any one of the three follows.

Statement:

61. The members of a certain political party are not very happy with the policies and decisions of the party president.

Courses of Action:

- I. The dissidents should form their own independent party and choose their leader.
 - II. The members should quit this particular party and join some other political party.
 - III. They should boycott all the meetings and programmes of the party
- (a) Only I follows.
(b) Only II follows.
(c) Only III follows.
(d) None follows.
(e) All the three follow.

Statement:

62. Elephant has become a commercially exploitable animal for poachers due to its ivory and the large quantity of meat it carries on its frame.

Courses of Action:

- I. More security should be provided in areas protected for elephants.
 - II. The persons involved in killing and carrying contrabands like ivory and elephant meat should be severely punished and heavily penalized.
 - III. All the wild elephants should be caught and kept at a safe place.
- (a) Only I and II follow.
(b) Only II and III follow.
(c) Only III follows.
(d) Either II or III follows.
(e) None follows.

Statement

63. A leading newspaper 'X' is losing its customers as a new newspaper 'Y' is gaining popularity.

Courses of Action:

- I. The quality of X should be improved
 - II. New popular columns should be added in X
 - III. The editors should try to find out why 'Y' is attracting their old customers
- (a) Only I and II follow.
(b) Only II and III follow.
(c) All the three follow.
(d) Only I and III follow.
(e) Only III follows.

Statement

64. Many persons are feared killed in a landslide triggered by heavy rains in a hilly area.

Courses of Action

- I. The help of army should be sought for rescue operations
 - II. The State government and volunteer agencies should arrange relief camps and supply necessities to the persons affected
 - III. A team of doctors and other medical staff should be rushed to the area.
- (a) Only I and II follow.
(b) Only I and III follow.
(c) Only II and III follow.
(d) Either II or III follows.
(e) All the three follow.

Below is given a passage followed by several inferences which can be drawn from the facts stated in the passage. You have to examine each inference separately in the context of the passage and decide upon its degree of truth or falsity. Mark your answers

- (a) if the inference is definitely true.
 (b) if probably true.
 (c) if doubtful as the data provided is inadequate.
 (d) if probably false.
 (e) if definitely false.

The textile section, which accounts for more than one-third of the country's exports has managed to resist the current export slowdown much better than other sectors. During the month of April 1997, textile exports recorded a 5.5 per cent growth in dollar terms while the country's overall exports declined by 10 per cent. The main push to textile exports has come from cotton yarn whose export increased by 34.6 per cent and wool and woollens (24.8 per cent) and the export of man-made textiles increased by 9.7 per cent but the export of readymade garments declined by 14 per cent. The export target for the current year includes items from the jute, coir and handicrafts sectors which account for about 15 per cent

65. There is no export item other than textile that has not decreased in demand during current year.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

66. Money earned by the country through exports is measured in terms of dollars

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

67. Our country always achieves her export targets.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

68. Man-made textile is not much in demand these days in export market.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

69. Items from jute, coir and handicrafts are sold at very high prices in foreign countries.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

70. The highest demand in the export market in textiles has been of the cotton yarn.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- (a) It is the only satellite among the planets.
- (c) It is a commercial product used for yarn. All the others are food products.
- (c) Narmada is the only river in the lot that falls into the Arabian Sea. All the others flow towards the Bay of Bengal.
- (d) All the others are buildings.
- (e) All the others are used as containers for liquids.
- (b) All the others are mental states connected with mood.
- (b) All the others are driven by fuel.
- (c) All the others are string instruments.
- (c) They have the product and the material it is made from relationship.
- (a) One grows on the other.
- (c) One is the systematic arrangement of the other.
- (d) Both are different items of a common variety i.e. gems : fruits.
- (d) The items have moderate and higher intensity relationship.
- (b) Both are opposites.
- (a) One is protected by the other.
- (d) The scarcity of one is the main cause of the other.
- (c) 18. (a) 19. (d) 20. (f) 21. (b)
- (e)

For solving the next type of questions, go on sorting out com-

mon letters and match them with common code letters. For example I, and N occur in FRIEND and ACTION so do 'k' and 'h', but I does not occur in MENTAL nor does k, hence 'k' is the code for I and 'h' is the code for N.

23. (c) 24. (e) 25. (d) 26. (b) 27. (c)

28. (e) The letters are coded by letters from alphabets, the distance increasing by one.

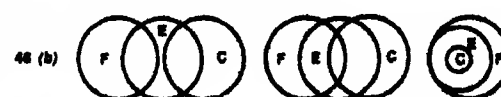
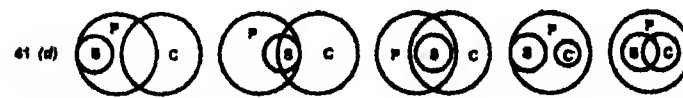
29. (a) 30. (d) 31. (b) 32. (b) 33. (c)

34. (e) 35. (c) 36. (c) 37. (b)

38-40. Rakesh—Gujarati and French
 Mohan—Bengali and German
 Sharad—Tamil and Russian
 Hemant—Marathi and Spanish

38. (c) 39. (a) 40. (d)

The best way to solve the next type of questions is by drawing diagrams of each probable situation and then reach the fool-proof situation. Let each item be represented by a circle irrespective of its size. Given below are some examples



49. (c) 50. (e) 51. (b) 52. (a) 53. (d)

54. (b) 55. (d) 56. (e) 57. (b) 58. (e)

59. (c) 60. (d) 61. (d) 62. (a) 63. (c)

64. (e) 65. (b) 66. (b) 67. (c) 68. (e)

69. (c) 70. (a)

Quantitative Aptitude

**West Bengal Miscellaneous Services Recruitment Group B Exam
held on April 13, 1997**

1. The lengths of each side of two squares are 10 cms and 24 cms; then the length of each side of the square whose area is the sum of the above two squares is:

- (a) 25 cms (b) 26 cms
(c) 28 cms (d) 30 cms

2. 5 years before, the age of the father was 8 times that of the son and 5 years after it will be 3 times that of the son. The present age of the father is:

- (a) 33 years (b) 37 years
(c) 42 years (d) 45 years

3. A river flows at the rate of 1 km/hr. A boat takes 2 times as long to row a distance in upstream as to row the same distance in its downstream. The speed of the boat in still water is:

- (a) 3 km/hr (b) $3\frac{1}{2}$ km/hr
(c) 4 km/hr (d) $4\frac{1}{2}$ km/hr

4. A man covers equal distances at the speeds of 4 kms/hr, 3 kms/hr and 2 kms/hr. His average speed per hr (in kms) is:

- (a) $\frac{13}{24}$ (b) $\frac{30}{13}$ (c) $\frac{36}{13}$ (d) $3\frac{1}{2}$

5. A train moving at the rate of 54 kms/hr crosses a lightpost in 12 seconds. The length of the train (in metres) is:

- (a) 100 (b) 120 (c) 125 (d) 180

6. A dealer blended 10 kgs of tea at Rs 80 per kg with 15 kgs of tea at Rs 90 per kg. If he wants to make a profit of 10% on cost, he would have to sell per kg at the rate of:

- (a) Rs 96 (b) Rs 95.20
(c) Rs 94.60 (d) Rs 94

7. If 30 men, working 8 hours a day, earn Rs 720, then 45 men working 6 hours a day will earn:

- (a) Rs 810 (b) Rs 850
(c) Rs 900 (d) Rs 960

8. Three numbers are in the ratio of 2 : 3 : 7 and their L.C.M. is 462. The H.C.F. is:

- (a) 8 (b) 9 (c) 11 (d) 13

9. The diameter of the wheel of a carriage is 1.05

metres. To cover a distance of 231 metres ($\pi = \frac{22}{7}$) the number of turns it will take round its axle is:

- (a) 60 (b) 65 (c) 70 (d) 75

10. A shopkeeper bought a number of articles of the same type for Rs 72 and he sold each of them at Rs 3.50. With the amount thus realised he could buy 4 more articles than what he purchased before. The number of articles he bought was:

- (a) 20 (b) 22 (c) 23 (d) 24

11. Two vessels contain mixture of spirit and water in the ratio of 4 : 3 and 3 : 4 respectively. The ratio in which the quantities from the two vessels should be mixed together so that the mixture thus formed may contain same amount of spirit and water is:

- (a) 2 : 3 (b) 2 : 1 (c) 1 : 1 (d) 1 : 2

12. A number on being divided by 4 and 7 successively leaves remainders 2 and 1 respectively. The number when divided by 28 will leave remainder:

- (a) 14 (b) 16 (c) 20 (d) 6

13. 1st January of 1991 was Tuesday; 31st December of that year was:

- (a) Monday (b) Tuesday
(c) Wednesday (d) Friday

14. The least integer which divides 2592 to make the result a perfect square is:

- (a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 6
(d) None of these

15. A mail train moving with a speed of 72 kms/hr crosses a platform completely in 15 seconds. If the length of the train be 120 metres, the length of the platform will be:

- (a) 150 m (b) 160 m (c) 175 m (d) 180 m

16. If the cost price of 5 articles be the selling price of 4 articles, then the profit per cent would be:

- (a) 20% (b) 22% (c) 25% (d) 30%

17. Two numbers are in the ratio of 2 : 3. If 9 be added to each of them, the resulting ratio becomes 3 : 4. The greater number is:

- (a) 20 (b) 24 (c) 27 (d) 30

18. The price of 3 pens and 4 pencils together is Rs 19.50

and that of 4 pens, and 3 pencils is Rs 22.50. The price of one pen is:

- (a) Rs 3 (b) Rs 3.50 (c) Rs 4 (d) Rs 4.50

19. The 3rd proportional to 4 and 12 is:

- (a) 48 (b) 40 (c) 36 (d) 32

20. If $8x907$ be divisible by 11, the missing digit (x) will be:

- (a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4

21. A man walking uniformly at a speed of 2 kms/hr reaches office 5 mins late, but, if he would walk at the rate of 3 kms/hr, he would reach there 5 mins earlier. The period of journey for him to reach the office on time is:

- (a) 30 mins (b) 25 mins
(c) 24 mins (d) 20 mins

22. The simplest value of $\frac{(23)^2 - 0.04}{2.1 \times 1.25}$ is:

- (a) 2 (b) 15 (c) 145 (d) 1

23. The integral number whose square is nearest to 8011 is:

- (a) 88 (b) 89 (c) 90 (d) 91

24. In 2 years the simple interest on a sum of money becomes $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the principal. The number of years when the amount will be double the principal is

- (a) 10 years (b) 12 years
(c) 15 years (d) 8 years

25. A sum of money amounts to Rs 1,375 in 3 years and to Rs 1,625 in 5 years. The rate of simple interest per annum is

- (a) 14% (b) $12\frac{1}{2}\%$
(c) $16\frac{1}{3}\%$ (d) 12%

26. The least number of 4 digits to be added to 15 so that the result may be a perfect square is:

- (a) 1009 (b) 1012 (c) 1001 (d) 1004

27. Of 20 men 12 gain Rs 3.35 each and 8 men gain Rs 2.40 each. The average gain per man is:

- (a) Rs 3.05
(b) Rs 2.95
(c) Rs 1.98
(d) Rs 2.97

28. A man spends in 8 months as much as he can earn in 7 months. He saves Rs 3,600 in a year. His monthly income is:

- (a) Rs 2,800 (b) Rs 2,400
(c) Rs 2,150 (d) Rs 2,000

29. In a certain town 60% of the inhabitants take rice as food, 50% take wheat and 20% take both. The percentage of inhabitants who neither take rice nor wheat is:

- (a) 14 (b) 10 (c) 12 (d) 8

30. The simplified value of:

$$\frac{519(3.92 \times 3.92 - 1.18 \times 1.18)}{2.74 \times 1.02} \text{ is:}$$

- (a) 25.95 (b) 25.65 (c) 5.92 (d) 26.95

31. The square of a number added to its fourth part is equal to 147. The number is:

- (a) 12 (b) 14 (c) 18 (d) 9

32. One train travels 448 km in 8 hours and a second train travels 504 km in 12 hours. The ratio of their average speed in km per hour is:

- (a) 3:5 (b) 2:3 (c) 4:1 (d) 4:3

33. The value of $99\frac{97}{99} \times 99$ is:

- (a) 9996 (b) $9996\frac{1}{99}$
(c) 9898 (d) $9898\frac{1}{39}$

34. The ages of A and B are together 28 years. If $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the age of A is equal to $16\frac{2}{3}\%$ of the age of B, the age of A is

- (a) 16 years
(b) 20 years
(c) 14 years
(d) 24 years

35. A prize money of Rs 325 is to be distributed amongst a number of students. The number of girl students is half that of the boys. If each boy receives Rs 20 and each girl Rs 25, the number of boys is

- (a) 9 (b) 8 (c) 11 (d) 10

36. Three numbers are in the ratio of 4:5:6. The second number exceeds the difference of the first and third by 15. The sum of the numbers is:

- (a) 55 (b) 65 (c) 75 (d) 80

37. A rebate of 7.5% is allowed, if electric bills are paid in time. A man gets a rebate of Rs 16.50. The amount of the bill is:

- (a) Rs 160 (b) Rs 215 (c) Rs 240 (d) Rs 220

38. 800 mangoes are to be divided amongst 4 men, 10 women and 16 boys in such a way that one-third share of a man, half the share of a woman and three-fourth share of a boy may be equal. The number of mangoes each boy gets, is:

- (a) 20 (b) 40 (c) 50 (d) 30

39. A sum of Rs 2,400 has to be collected by A, B and C. A collects $\frac{1}{20}$ th, B, $\frac{3}{10}$ th and C, $\frac{1}{5}$ th of this amount. The ratio of the amount collected to the total amount to be collected is:

- (a) 11:20 (b) 2:7 (c) 13:20 (d) 17:20

40. The area of a triangular plot of land, the lengths of whose sides are 30 metres, 40 metres and 50 metres, is:

- (a) 900 sq m
(b) 600 sq m
(c) 800 sq m
(d) 1600 sq m

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (b) Sum of areas of two squares $= 10^2 + 24^2 = 676 \text{ cm}^2$
 $A = (\text{Side})^2$
 \therefore Reqd length of side of a square $= \sqrt{676} = 26 \text{ cm}$
2. (b) Let the present ages of father and son be x years and y years respectively
A.T.S. $x - 5 = 8(y - 5)$ or $x - 8y = -35 \dots (i)$
and $x + 5 = 3(y + 5)$ or $x - 3y = 10 \dots (ii)$
Solving (i) and (ii), $x = 37$
3. (a) Let the speed of a boat in still water be $x \text{ km/hr}$
Speed of a boat downstream $= x + 1 \text{ km/hr}$
Speed of a boat upstream $= x - 1 \text{ km/hr}$
 $T = \frac{D}{S}$ A.T.S. $\frac{D}{x-1} = 2 \cdot \frac{D}{x+1} \Rightarrow x = 3 \text{ km/hr}$
4. (c) Let the equal distance be $x \text{ km}$ $T = \frac{D}{S}$
Average speed $= \frac{\text{Total distance travelled}}{\text{Total time taken}}$
 $= \frac{x+x}{\frac{x}{4} + \frac{x}{3} + \frac{x}{2}} = \frac{36}{13} \text{ km/hr}$
5. (d) Speed $= 54 \text{ km/hr} = 54 \times \frac{5}{18} = 15 \text{ m/sec}$
Length of train $= 15 \times 12 = 180 \text{ m}$ ($D = S \times t$)
6. (c) C.P. of 25 kg tea $= 10 \times 80 + 15 \times 90 = \text{Rs } 2150$
S.P. of 25 kg tea $= 2150 \times \frac{110}{100} = 215 \times 11$
 \therefore S.P. of 1 kg tea $= \frac{215 \times 11}{25} = \text{Rs } 94.60$
7. (a)

Men	Hours	Earning (in Rs)
30	8	720
45	6	x

More men more earning 30 : 45
Less hours less earning 8 : 6
 $x = \frac{720 \times 45 \times 6}{30 \times 8} = \text{Rs } 810$
8. (c) Let the nos. be $2x, 3x, 7x$
 \therefore LCM $= 42x = 462 \therefore x = 11$
HCF of $2x, 3x, 7x = x$
 \therefore H.C.F. $= 11$
9. (c) No. of turns $= \frac{231}{\pi D} = 231 \times \frac{7}{22} \times \frac{100}{105} = 70$
Circumference ($C = \pi D$)
10. (d) Let the no. of articles be x
C.P. of 1 article $= \text{Rs } \frac{72}{x}$
S.P. $= \text{C.P.} + P$
 $\therefore 3.50x = 72 + \frac{72}{x} \times 4$
On solving $x = 24$ as x can't be -ve
11. (c) Amount of spirit in first vessel $= \frac{4}{4+3} = \frac{4}{7}$

Amount of spirit in second vessel $= \frac{3}{7}$

Amount of spirit in the mixture obtained by mixing the two mixtures $= \frac{1}{2}$

By the rule of alligation

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \frac{4}{7} & & \frac{3}{7} \\ & \searrow \quad \swarrow & \\ & \frac{1}{2} & \\ & \swarrow \quad \searrow & \\ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{3}{7} = \frac{1}{14} & & \frac{4}{7} - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{14} \\ \text{or } \frac{1}{14} : \frac{1}{14} = 1 : 1 \end{array}$$

Reqd. ratio $= 1 : 1$

By inspection we can also find that the reqd. ratio $= 1 : 1$

12. (d)

4	...	4	34
7	...	2	7
...	1	1	1

When 34 is divided by 28, $R = 6$.
Rule:- First divisor \times 2nd remainder
+ first remainder
 $= 4 \times 1 + 2 = 6$
(Start with lowest quotient say 1
we get dividend $= 34$)
13. (b) From 1st Jan., 1991 to 31st Dec. 1991, no. of days $= 365$
No. of odd days $= 1$
It means on 1st Jan 1992, it will be Wednesday as on 1st Jan 1991 it was Tuesday
 \therefore On 31st Dec 1991, it will be Tuesday
14. (a) $2592 = 2 \times 36^2 \therefore$ Reqd. integer $= 2$
15. (d) $72 \times \frac{5}{18} = 20 \text{ m/sec}$
A.T.S. $15 = \frac{120+x}{20}$
 $\therefore x = 180 \text{ m}$
Time taken
 $= \frac{\text{Length of train} + \text{Length of platform}}{\text{Speed of train}}$
16. (c) Let S.P. of 1 article $= \text{Re } 1$
C.P. of 5 articles $= \text{S.P. of 4 articles} = 4$
 \therefore C.P. of 1 article $= \frac{4}{5}$
 $\therefore P = \text{S.P.} - \text{C.P.} = 1 - \frac{4}{5} = \frac{1}{5}$
Profit% $= \frac{1}{5} \times 100 = 25\%$
17. (c) A.T.S. $\frac{2x+9}{3x+9} = \frac{3}{4} \Rightarrow x = 9$
 \therefore Greater no. $= 3x = 3 \times 9 = 27$
18. (d) $3x + 4y = 19.50 \dots (i)$
 $4x + 3y = 22.50 \dots (ii)$

On solving (i) and (ii), $x = 4.50$

\therefore Cost of a pen = Rs 4.50

19. (c) Third proportional to 3 and 12 = $\frac{12 \times 12}{4} = 36$

(as third proportional of x and $y = \frac{y^2}{x}$)

20. (b) 8×907 . Sum of digits at odd places = $7 + 9 + 8 = 24$

Sum of digits at even places = $0 + x = x$

Difference = $24 - x$

The no. is divisible by 11 if diff. is 0 or divisible by 11.

Clearly $x = 2$

21. (b) Let the distance be x

A.T.S. $\frac{x}{2} - \frac{5}{60} = \frac{x}{3} + \frac{5}{60}$

$\therefore x = 1 \text{ km}$

Reqd. time = $(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{5}{60}) \text{ hrs} = 25 \text{ minutes}$

22. (a) $\frac{(23)^2 - .04}{2.1 \times 1.25} = \frac{(2.3)^2 - (.2)^2}{2.1 \times 1.25} = \frac{(2.3 - .2)(2.3 + .2)}{2.1 \times 1.25} = 2$

23. (c) $89^2 = 7921$ Clearly 8100 is nearest to 8011

$90^2 = 8100 \therefore$ Reqd integer = 90

24. (a) Let $P = \text{Rs } x \therefore \text{S.I.} = \text{Rs } \frac{x}{5} \therefore R = \frac{\text{S.I.} \times 100}{P \times T}$

$= \frac{\frac{x}{5} \times 100}{x \times 2} = 10$

$P = \text{Rs } x \therefore \text{S.I.} = \text{Rs } x$

Reqd. time = $\frac{x \times 100}{x \times 10} = 10 \text{ years}$

25. (b) $A = P + \text{S.I. of 5 years} = \text{Rs } 1625$

$A = P + \text{S.I. of 3 years} = \text{Rs } 1375$

$\therefore \text{S.I. of 2 years} = \text{Rs } 250$

$\therefore \text{S.I. of 3 years} = \text{Rs } 375$

$P = 1375 - 375 = \text{Rs } 1000$

$R = \frac{\text{S.I.} \times 100}{P \times T} = \frac{375 \times 100}{1000 \times 3} = 12\frac{1}{2}$

26. (a) Least no. of four digits = 1000

Least no. of four digits which is a perfect square

$= 1000 + (124 - 100) = 1024$

\therefore Reqd. no = $1024 - 15 = 1009$

27. (d) Reqd. average gain/man = $\frac{12 \times 3.35 + 8 \times 2.40}{20}$

$= \text{Rs } 2.97$

28. (b) Let monthly salary be Rs x

Exp. of 8 months = Rs $7x$

\therefore Exp of 12 months = $\frac{7}{8}x \times 12 = \frac{21}{2}x$

A.T.S. $12x - \frac{21x}{2} = 3600 \Rightarrow x = 2400$

\therefore Monthly salary = Rs 2400

29. (b) $n(A \cup B) = n(A) + n(B) - n(A \cap B)$

No. of inhabitants who take wheat or rice or both
 $= 60 + 50 - 20 = 90$

\therefore No. of inhabitants who neither take rice nor wheat

$= 100 - 90 = 10$

\therefore Reqd %age = 10%

30. (a) $\frac{5.19[(3.92)^2 - (1.18)^2]}{2.74 \times 1.02}$

$= \frac{5.19 \times (3.92 + 1.18)(3.92 - 1.18)}{2.74 \times 1.02}$

$= \frac{5.19 \times 5.10 \times 2.74}{2.74 \times 1.02} = 25.95$

31. (a) Let the no be x

A.T.S. $x^2 + \frac{x}{4} = 147 \Rightarrow x = 12$

$\frac{448}{12}$

32. (d) Reqd ratio = $\frac{8}{504} = \frac{4}{3} = 4 : 3$

33. (c)

34. (a) Let the ages of A and B be x years and y years respectively

A.T.S. $x + y = 28 \dots (i)$

$\frac{25}{2 \times 100} \times x = \frac{50}{3 \times 100} \times y$ or $y = \frac{3}{4}x$

or $x + \frac{3}{4}x = 28 \Rightarrow x = 16 \text{ years}$

35. (d) Let the no. of boys be x A.T.S. $20x + \frac{25x}{2} = 325$

\therefore No of girls = $\frac{x}{2}$

$\therefore x = 10$

36. (c) Let the nos. be $4x, 5x, 6x$

A.T.S. $5x = (6x - 4x) + 15 \therefore x = 5$

\therefore Reqd. sum = $15x = 15 \times 5 = 75$

37. (d) 7.5% of $x = 16.50$

$\therefore x = 16.50 \times \frac{100}{7.5} = \text{Rs } 220$

38. (a) Let the no. of mangoes got by a man, a woman and a boy be x, y, z respectively

A.T.S. $\frac{x}{3} = \frac{y}{2} = \frac{3z}{4} = t$ (say)

$\therefore x = 3t, y = 2t, z = \frac{4t}{3}$

$4 \times 3t + 10 \times 2t + 16 \times \frac{4t}{3} = 800 \therefore t = 15$

\therefore A boy gets = $\frac{4t}{3} = \frac{4}{3} \times 15 = 20$ mangoes

39. (a) Total amount collected by A, B and C

$= (\frac{1}{20} + \frac{3}{10} + \frac{1}{5}) \text{th of Rs } 2400 = \frac{11}{20} \times 2400$

Reqd. ratio = $\frac{11}{20} \times 2400 : 2400 = 11 : 20$

40. (b) $S = \frac{30 + 40 + 50}{2} = 60$ $a = 30, b = 40, c = 50$

Reqd area of $\Delta = \sqrt{s(s-a)(s-b)(s-c)}$

$= \sqrt{60(60-30)(60-40)(60-50)}$

$= \sqrt{60 \times 30 \times 20 \times 10} = 600 \text{ sq m}$



A young person in India spends 18 years in school and college to do his graduation in any stream. That's a lot of time to shape character and thinking. What we have instead are people who are unsure of themselves, unemployable, but with very high expectations. There is no desire to change the world but most people want to become a part of the corrupt system and earn a lot of money quickly. In the years that a person spends in the system, the attitude of *chalta hai* gets firmly entrenched in his mind.

There is something wrong in a system that produces such individuals on a mass scale. The COMPETITION MASTER set out to analyse the system and to discover how healthy is our education today. We sent out questionnaires to readers across the country to know their views. We discovered a system hopelessly out of tune with reality.

Like everything else which is managed by the State, the education system is a sick industry: if primary schools are without facilities, the colleges and universities are highly politicised. There are no efforts to introduce new courses or to reinvent existing ones. If some successful people do emerge, it is because they learn to beat the system, learning things on their own and developing themselves rather than depending on an outdated system.

Our cover story traces the story of education from school to college to university. Backed by a nation-wide survey, we explain what needs to be done about it. We talked to students and teachers and our cover story reveals some of our findings. Here, perhaps, one can find the reasons why we are so low on the Human Development Index and why so many of our educated youth are unemployable.

If one takes a look at advertisements in newspapers, one finds that advertisers do not refrain from selling hopes and degrees when an average graduate or a postgraduate has no skills and is unemployable. Whether the high-paying job materialises after doing a course or whether one is really better off by getting a foreign degree after paying a huge sum for it, is doubtful.

The advertisements also reveal a more insidious trend: quality education can be had only if you are able and willing to pay for it. The others can join a college which is affordable no doubt, but does not prepare one for life. Classes are often not held or bunked and there are few quality books in the library. Time is spent in the canteen, with little learning to go with it. The society is thus being further divided, with the privileged few having access to good education but the majority destined to make something of their life themselves.

The government, of course, has turned a blind eye towards these trends. Education is one of the soft items of agenda, on which the coalition government cannot break, so it gets the minimal of attention. Nobody has cared to take a look at the actual conditions that exist in primary and secondary schools.

The education system, which has millions of students and teachers in it, consists of dingy classrooms in various stages of disrepair, too much politics, pompous but outdated teachers, a heavy workload—all combine to stifle the creativity and spirit of the Indian youth. But that's a little

better than primary school education because many schools have no classrooms, teachers or blackboards.

Though most people agree that the future of the country lies in the hands of youth, just how that future is secured remains a mystery, as students are left very much to their own devices. It is only in some private schools and colleges that some semblance of education is maintained.

Primary Education

A jump in literacy has fuelled the growth of developed countries. Nowhere is it more evident than in the East Asian countries which have risen from similar conditions to achieve near total literacy levels. The 1991 figure of literacy for India is just 52.2 per cent. Of every three children enrolled on school, two leave by class 8. Girls are sent to school less and drop out more. In a way, that is a blessing for the government, for if every child started attending schools, resources would be spread out even thinner.

The importance of education can hardly be stressed. A World Bank report, *Primary Education in India*, correlates figures of development and infant mortality to primary education. It has already been established that education of girls results in more use of birth control devices, resulting in population control. An educated people will also contribute more to the economy: growth rates in Haryana, Punjab and Maharashtra are higher and they are

also the better educated States.

Orissa and Bihar are on the lower rung, with literacy rates of 35 and 23 per cent respectively. They have an infant mortality rates of 112 and 89 per thousand, among the highest in the country.

Given such data, one would expect the government to pay more attention to primary education. Indeed, there is talk of increasing budgetary allocation for elementary education from 3.9 per cent to 6 per cent of GDP in the Ninth Plan. The claims, however, hide the criminal neglect of this important area. Given the culture of scams, none of our leaders have time for such things: recently in Bihar thousands of school teachers gathered to press the government to pay their salaries, which had not been paid for years. What could one expect of a teacher who was getting no salary?

Policy-makers and planners, while increasing funds allocation on paper, have not cared to see the harsh reality of schools. Living in cities, they are able to send their children to the best public schools without bothering to spare a thought for the lakhs of small towns and villages of India. Moreover, budget allocations by themselves do not achieve anything, since they may not be spent. Utilisation figures for Non-Formal Education (NFE) in a number of States are less than 50 per cent.

This is not all. Primary school teachers are at the mercy of politicians in most

States and are transferred after a few years, disrupting their lives. Huge bribes are demanded to transfer teachers to desired areas. Teachers are also used as spare labour for jobs such as election duties and clerical work, degrading them. In private schools, there is a story of exploitation and often teachers are paid less than minimum wages for their efforts.

Colleges

The few who manage to finish school seek admission in colleges. The urban-rural difference is evident here as well. A recent survey showed that the best colleges of India were confined to the metros. Here, there is a rat race to get into a coveted college, if only for the snob value. So stiff is the competition that the cut-off percentage keeps increasing every year. In smaller cities, the state of colleges is bad: decrepit buildings, sub-standard faculty and no facilities.

There has been a drastic reduction in subsidies, thanks to the conditions of the IMF-World Bank. The University Grants Commission (UGC) wanted Rs 829 crores in the Ninth Plan but was granted just Rs 351 crore. As a result of reduction in grants, colleges across the country face financial crisis. Science laboratories lack equipment while arts teaching has become a joke, with bunking of classes the fashion. The UGC has, in any case, produced a system where colleges depend on grants for survival.

This results in thousands of people acquiring degrees with a minimum of effort and learning: a person with a



degree is simply unemployable as he has no skills. It speaks volumes for a society where a person who is 25 years old struggles with a useless degree, whereas in developed countries, even a teenager begins to earn money.

The only way out is to get into a professional college. Engineering, defence or medicine options do exist but here too there is a stiff competition. Private colleges have made education a mess: despite a ban on capitation fee, it is impossible to get into one without paying a huge bribe. Agents advertise their services and offer "sure-shot admission", provided you have the capacity to pay. But that is not all. Students doing their diplomas from private colleges report that marks in the examination can only be obtained if one bribes the teachers.

Universities

Universities and institutes of higher learning in India are stuck in a time warp. Outdated courses have added to the educated unemployed across the country. University dons live in isolated worlds, out of touch with the real world. There is a fight for promotions and very little academics: the number of contributions by Indian professors in research journals is very low. While universities abroad are think tanks, often shaping public policy, the Indian universities are hotbeds of politics. There has been no scientific discovery worth the name in our universities in last 50 years.

The less said about research work in our universi-

ties the better. If one looks at the subjects on which research is done for PhD thesis across the country, one finds no innovation. The topics are repetitive and too general. Most of the volumes brought out by our learned scholars are unpublishable and useless, if not plagiarised.

Research scholars say that though the research is supposed to be guided by a professor, no guidance is actually forthcoming. In many cases, the researcher spends his time doing domestic chores for the family of the professor, who can otherwise stop the stipend and even create trouble for the student.

According to a survey, less than 5 per cent of the faculty draws books from the library even in the case of the most prestigious universities. Classes are not held regularly, which suits both students and professors alike. Many of the students who stick to universities to do research are, in any case, not interested in research. They choose a topic so that they can get cheap accommodation in the university hostel. Many make various attempts at the civil service examinations, using the research as a facade. Those who do not make it in their several attempts, get their PhD degree and end up as college and university lecturers, though they have no interest in teaching.

The treatment of universities as public sector organisations has encouraged nepotism in selection of teachers. Merit usually takes a back seat. Unlimited job security of teachers has resulted in inefficiencies and very little effort by teachers to update them-

Findings of the survey

The survey conducted by **THE COMPETITION MASTER** revealed many interesting facts. We received 1980 responses from all over India and readers also sent in their comments. There were an equal number of male and female respondents.

A surprisingly high 11 per cent of the respondents said that they were not interested in what they were doing and had been pushed into their studies by parental or peer group pressure. There also appears to be a change in career preferences: 31 per cent of the respondents were doing or wanted to get into the management, banks or Chartered Accountancy, 15 per cent mentioned civil services and 12 per cent wanted to get into medicine, with girls far outnumbering the boys in this. A large number of youngsters (21 per cent) were undecided. Readers in this category said that they wanted to "serve the nation" or to "get a very high paying job" but they had not decided how they would go about getting it. Many students had gone in or completed courses in computers but only 4 per cent of the respondents looked for careers in computers, a result perhaps of media hype about computers. Among the other careers that students wanted to get into were engineering, defence and teaching, with responses varying between 3 to 4 per cent. Sports, law, fashion designing and other professions were mentioned by 1 to 2 per cent of the respondents.

Most respondents said that they felt overburdened by studies. Some 34 per cent respondents said that they knew of a person who had ended his or her life due to pressure of studies, pointing to a problem that may be more serious than we may care to admit.

About 85 per cent students had a very low opinion of teachers in colleges and universities. Readers said teachers lacked knowledge and commitment. "Regular teachers do not pay attention to the needs of the students", writes Natasha Singh of Ahmedabad, a sentiment echoed by a number of readers. Many felt that coaching class teachers were money-minded.

The respondents appear to be sick of present-day colleges. Over 94 per cent respondents were in favour of privatisation if the standards improved, even if it meant that education would be more expensive.

The survey could have a bias as the respondents consisted of our readers only, though responses were received from every State in the country.

selves. The result is that many countries do not recognise degrees obtained from Indian universities.

The Great Betrayal

The net result of all this is that students acquire their learning by beating the system. They learn early in life that regular classes can be skipped and private tuitions are the answer. In our survey, we were surprised to find that

students from all over the country found private teachers more interactive, learned and understanding.

The over-emphasis on coaching classes is hard on the students. Going from school to classes in different subjects leaves them little time to do anything else. In a way, their growth is stunted but perhaps there is no option.

A person who makes something out of life by beating the system emerges with a

hangover and an arrogance, expecting the country to look after him. Instead of doing something for the country, the average engineer, doctor or bureaucrat begins to expect that those who are less educated should *salaam* him

This is a great betrayal of those who are less fortunate. The saying, "Ask not what the country can do for you, but what you can do for the country", is completely inverted in the country. The attitude is all too evident in the report of a newspaper which said that when its reporter went to interview an IAS topper, he asked money for talking to him. It is doubtful that when the officer is given a responsible posting, he would do anything for the country without demanding something in return. That also sums up why government officials have done nothing for the districts in which they served.

It would not be wrong to say that the educated, who should have spearheaded change in the country, have let down the country. They may even have stood in the way of our development, since it is the educated people who hold responsible positions and have demanded bribes even for simple jobs.

What little idealism that a person has is sapped by caste-based reservation. It is difficult to retain love for the country when one watches colleagues being given preferential treatment for no other reason but that they belong to the lower castes. This could be a reason why most young people want to go abroad: in our survey, about 84 per cent students said that they would like to go abroad.



Making vegetables of our educated

There was a time when universities in India attracted scholars from all over the world. Today, a degree from an Indian university may not even be recognised when one applies abroad. In a recent survey conducted by *ASIAWEEK* on the best universities of Asia, there is no Indian university in the top 10 positions. The University of Delhi is ranked 29, the Jawaharlal Nehru University at 47 and University of Bombay holds the last position at 50.

There are a few universities which get the first rank in terms of number of teachers with post-graduate degrees and Delhi University is among them. But its rank in terms of academic reputation plummets to 30. Why should this happen, given the fact there are so many well qualified teachers? There could be two reasons for this: 1) that the post-graduates are sub-standard, or 2) after joining the university, they become complacent and stop putting any efforts in their teaching.

Both are distinct possibilities. Universities are today plagued by favouritism and nepotism while selecting teachers: a brilliant candidate will often have to spend time in ad hoc assignments while a person holding the special favour of a university professor is chosen for a permanent position. In many universities, positions lie vacant for long periods of time. Many individuals who finally get into the universities are the researcher-types who are unemployable in any other profession.

The second is also a reason why academics suffer in Indian universities. In our survey, we found university teachers conducting a variety of side businesses. Some were property dealers, others owned printing presses. In one college we found that some teachers came only on pay-day to collect their salaries.

Colleges and universities are run like the worst public sector undertakings and those who work in them are reduced to being vegetables after a few years. There is little accountability for the teachers. Teacher training programmes are conspicuous by their absence. Some programmes are organised by the University Grants Commission (UGC) which are described as sub-standard by the teachers who attend them. Usually, they are conducted by some retired professors whose inputs have little value in a world which has changed.

The sincerity of our leaders can be judged by the fact that while they claim to uphold social justice, they prefer to send their children abroad. Former Prime Minister V.P. Singh, while unleashing the Mandal report at home, had his son living comfortably abroad. The message of politicians is simple—social justice is only for the patriotic type youth who is willing to bear all at home.

Changing the system

The education system is no doubt a complete mess while primary education suffers from lack of resources, higher education is cornered by a small number of well-entrenched dons. Privatising education is one option and indeed, the cutting down of grants of the UGC is forcing institutions to look for new sources of funding. Our readers are unanimous when they say that they would not mind paying more if education is privatised and facilities are improved.

Privatisation, however, has seen another evil: the entry of the businessman in the field of education, who again has no interest in academics. While earlier businessmen opened educational institutes for tax or charitable purposes, now they are being opened solely to earn profits. Many business houses have diversified into schools and professional colleges. Though the fees is very high, the facilities are reportedly upmarket. Other institutes simply hike their fees without offering any facilities in return.

VOCABULARY

Improve Your Word Power

1. **ambush (v):** (a) narrate (b) attack (c) introduce (d) expect.
2. **belligerent:** (a) friendly (b) aggressive (c) solitary (d) indifferent.
3. **cajole:** (a) flatter (b) waste (c) verify (d) report.
4. **diatribe:** (a) introduction (b) departure (c) welcome (d) denunciation.
5. **entail:** (a) resolve (b) repeat (c) involve (d) invite
6. **farrago:** (a) mixture (b) information (c) description (d) flight
7. **grime:** (a) prayer (b) devotion (c) dirt (d) murder
8. **hoodoo:** (a) ill-treatment (b) bad luck (c) bad debt (d) narrow escape.
9. **impend:** (a) soften (b) harden (c) threaten (d) listen.
10. **lackadaisical:** (a) unreal (b) unbecoming (c) unending (d) unenthusiastic.
11. **maroon:** (a) abandon (b) surround (c) climb (d) encounter.
12. **ninny:** (a) scholarly person (b) timely arrival (c) foolish person (d) delayed decision.
13. **obaisance.** (a) revolution (b) evolution (c) loss (d) obedience
14. **pique:** (a) resentment (b) enjoyment (c) forgiveness (d) conquest
15. **quorum:** (a) sufficiency (b) deficiency (c) decency (d) humility.
16. **repine:** (a) argue (b) exhibit (c) complain (d) advise.
17. **serendipitous:** (a) funny fellow (b) chance discovery (c) pleasant surprise (d) nervous fellow.
18. **tribulation:** (a) gift (b) reception (c) livelihood (d) sorrow.
19. **unencumbered:** (a) free (action) (b) guilty (conscience) (c) suspended (animation) (d) simple (solution).
20. **yarn (v):** (a) prevent (b) punish (c) tell (d) participate.

ANSWERS

1. **ambush (v):** (b) attack (make a surprise attack).
—In a low-intensity war, insurgents *ambush* police or patrol parties and inflict heavy casualties.
2. **belligerent:** (b) aggressive, quarrelsome.
—On the issue of corruption in high places, the opposition was in a *belligerent* mood in the House.
3. **cajole:** (a) flatter, coax.
—The grand-mother was *cajoled* into (accepting) the inter-caste marriage of her grand-son
4. **diatribe:** (d) denunciation, criticism.
—The press launched a scathing *diatribe* against the high-handed behaviour of the police.
5. **entail:** (c) involve.

—The new job that my elder brother has joined *entails* a lot of hard work and responsibility.

6. **farrago:** (a) mixture, confused collection.
—What the turn-coat politician was trying to spell out on the controversy was nothing but a *farrago* of falsehood.

7. **grime:** (c) dirt, filth.
—Most of the breathing problems of urban life are the result of soot and *grime* coming out of ill-planned industrial units.

8. **hoodoo:** (b) bad-luck, jinx.
—Certain houses are condemned to remain vacant because they seem to have a *hoodoo* on them.

9. **impend:** (c) threaten.
—She could not fully describe the danger that kept *impending* her till her death

10. **lackadaisical:** (d) unenthusiastic.
—A *lackadaisical* approach towards the problems of poverty, and illiteracy has brought us to the present sorry pass.

11. **maroon:** (a) abandon.
—Without a car, she was *marooned* at home for many days.

12. **ninny:** (c) foolish person.
—It needs a lot of patience to bear with a *ninny* like you.

13. **obaisance:** (d) obedience, deference.
—Flatterers and fortune-seekers flock to god-men and make *obaisance* to them without any sense of self-respect.

14. **pique:** (a) resentment, irritation.
—In India the politics of *pique* is more in practice than of principles

15. **quorum:** (a) sufficiency, minimum number.
—For want of *quorum*, the Speaker adjourned the House till noon.

16. **repine:** (c) complain, grieve, fret.
—For our failures, we tend to *repine* against Fate and Stars.

17. **serendipitous:** (b) chance or unexpected (discovery).
—The *serendipitous* discovery of the progress of news from a 'report' to a 'story' is on line with the progress of society, polity and even science.

18. **tribulation:** (d) sorrow, trouble.
—Life is not a bed of roses but a tight-rope walking beset with trials and *tribulations*.

19. **unencumbered:** (a) free (of action or movement).
—In the prevailing political situation, what the country needs the most are the *unencumbered* leaders.

20. **yarn (v):** (c) tell (story or tale)—exaggerated or invented.
—It was a great fun to listen to the soldier *yarning* and yawning all the time.

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PERSONALITY & YOU

Rewards of A Trained Mind

A university student has complained that he was lacking in will-power. He has the best intentions, but the least thing turns him off. He goes astray, as it were.

Another says "I can never finish things. I go some way and then all my interest is gone."

Neither of these two have self-control. Do you belong to this category? What are the difficulties? Where do you come up against this stonewall?

Do you drink too much? Do you waste half your waking hours chasing pleasures? Is your problem one of time frittered away. Are you a sufferer of smoking?

There is one thing common in all time-wasters. They are all escapes. If you have been bound by them for years, it simply means that the problem began quite early in your life.

Perhaps your parents pampered you and so you learned the art of shirking responsibility. Or, your parents were too strict and duty became a misery from which you tried hard to escape.

In any case, in those early years, things were taking place that stunted your growth into maturity. You have learned that two and two make four at school.

But your thought in life, two and two could make five. You failed to face life and insisted on your bit of make-believe. Instead of accepting life in a down-to-earth way, you used the magic formula of escapes.

So, life was something not to be accepted and faced up to, but something to run away from. Here is the fatal flaw in your philosophy of life.

In your consciousness, your goal is success. Deep down, however, the mind is bent towards escape.

Mr X had a fiery temper. Even a trifle set him off to rave and storm. Then he started examining this shortcoming. In other words, he started training the mind to get out of the habit.

As a child, he was bitter and miserable. His only satisfaction was to fly into a rage. For instance, he smashed everything to bits. This was his revenge on life. Revenge became an unconscious habit. He was caught in a web of his own making. Habits are like shirts of iron, easy to get in, difficult to get out.

Result? Consciously, he sought success but in the unconscious mind, he was seeking revenge. This was his escape from

bitterness of life and his fiery temper.

Bad Temper

HE had fought this temper for years without success. Now, understanding the escape into bitterness that had ruled his life, he stared in the face of reality. He made conquest of temper as a goal of his life. With sustained effort, his temper was belted by him.

Accept reality. Recognise that two and two do really make four, not only in arithmetic, but also in life.

Over Compensation

IT is difficult for those people who try to accomplish the impossible. This is the case of an inferior man who feels he is worthless. He determines to attain such pre-eminence so that society acknowledges his greatness.

This attitude is called over-compensation. Are you trying to reach an impossible goal? It is not possible to reach the Everest in one go. One has to become a mountaineer first. One step at a time is a sound and practical philosophy.

You have come to feel inferior. Deep down in your unconscious mind, you are no longer working for success. In such a state of mind, hopelessness and the sympathy you give yourself become the secret goal of your nature. This has a powerful crippling effect on your mind and thus on your goals and achievement

Recognise the secret goal. Bring to light the hidden saboteur. And your goals which look distant and unachievable become achievable

Achievers of the world have two hallmarks: they have clearly defined goals. They look upon labour as a privilege, not a curse. A man is a worker, if he is not that, he is nothing else!

Work is not a punishment, nor a drudgery. It is a pleasure, a means for the expression of your personality. People who succeed but fail to do so because they act as scatter-brains. They give themselves niggardly to work. Putting the mind in work is really the problem of putting the mind on focus. It is the problem of cultivating interest in things which *have* to be done. A successful person does a thing when it should be done, whether he wants to do it or not does not bother him.

The mind has a natural inclination to escape work. Therefore, it is necessary to cultivate the habit of working *deliberately*. Once the mind is tamed and attuned to a specific kind of discipline, it will react naturally and automatically to the demands put on it.

New Attitude

WORK is boring. This is the standard shelter of a habitually lazy mind. A

new attitude of mind is called for. This too comes from a disciplined mind. And a disciplined mind comes from a training drill—rigorous and regular.

This new attitude should put work in the centre. It should not be the work of a slave. It is also the way through which you can achieve some semblance of perfection and excellence.

We spend about half of our life at work. It is a matter of regret if half life is spent in slipshod and sloppy work. People engaged in creative activity know this. They look upon work as a mirror of their personality. Like Aldous Huxley, they want to ask themselves: Is there anything in which no one else can equal me?

Gandhi has said that the path to self-discovery lies through performance of duty. Duty is that 'work' which we have to do! We are ethically committed to it. Can anyone perform this without systematic training of the mind?

Simple Rules

YOU can always face life afresh. Here are simple rules that will help you to achieve the rewards from self-restraint

■ **Believe in yourself.** This is essential to achievement and success. Your faith can be of great help. It is easier to *respect* yourself when *believe* in yourself

■ **Work out your plan.** What are you wishing to achieve? Whether it is in the running of an office, the passing of examination or the curbing of a bad habit, face the thing squarely and make workable programmes.

■ **Do not let ambitions run away with you.** Make only reasonable demands

on your energy so that you can win your first battles easily. Then go ahead to bigger plans.

No matter what your circumstances or limitations, **give meaning to whatever you do.** You can replace discontent with objective purposefulness. Let there always be a goal to whatever you do.

"There is no action so slight, nor so mean, but it may be done to a great purpose, and ennobled therefore", said John Ruskin. Then he added: "Nor is any purpose so great but that slight actions may help it, and may be so done as to help it much."

■ **In times of emergency, make a special point to keep "first things first"** This will help you retain your own sense of balance and become a tower of strength to you.

■ **Remember you have duties to perform and let nothing dissuade you.** Otherwise, you again become confused and filled with a sense of dislike of what you do.

Work can be a joy and purposeful performance or just a humdrum job. Your attitude to work shapes your own destiny. Train your mind in such a way that it obeys you. If you fail to do, it (the mind) mis-uses you. It begins to treat you as an object of contempt because you are a puppet at its command. When the mind becomes your whimsical master, you cannot prevent it from acting like a tyrant.

If it has been happening with you thus far, do not despair. Tryon Edwards says, "There is nothing so elastic as the human mind. The more we are obliged to do, the more we are able to accomplish"

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Grave Humour

TO the sedate and the sober, humour in suicide might sound sacrilegious but the fact is that people do commit suicide and crack the wit whip. Suicidologists might find interesting insights into the minds of those who perform the act of self-destruction. For others, the parting lines are important for their wit and humour.

We are asked to believe that suicide is an act of temporary madness. But certain people do retain their sense and sensibilities till the last plunge. They carefully tie-up the loose ends before departure.

In Britain, a workman about to hang himself in an abandoned house, chalked his final words on the wall outside. "Sorry about this. There is a corpse in here. Inform police." Another left the following note on the table and proceeded to the other world. Why suicide? Why not?

The famous inventor and industrialist, George Eastman, carefully arranged the revolver, pencil and paper on the table before shooting and scribbled his farewell line: "My work is over. Why wait?"

While success and failure in professional life play an important part in determining one's attitude to life, they are reflected in mode of death too. Ralph Burton, a successful satirist, wrote that he was ending his life because he was fed up with inventing devices "for getting through 24 hours of every day". He added that his remains should be left to any medical school or that soap be made out of them.

A struggling Hollywood actor tried hard for a number of years after initial success to recapture his place but failed. He rang the curtain down on his life with this line: "I really tried hard to stage a comeback but there will be no comeback now."

Another, not an actor though, left his last wish: "I should be buried only after I am fully dead. It is rather unpleasant to wake up in a coffin."

Many strive to describe the sensation of the coming end but in a lighter vein. A former soldier described thus the effect as he fell to carbon monoxide: "Terrific smell of gas humes. It would be 634 civilian time." Another recorded: "The room is going round and round. I can barely see what I am writing. Maybe, it is the end. Who knows? It is very pleasant, Yes. No."

Jacques Rigat, a surrealist wrote: "Suicide is a vocation". Before he shot himself, Jacques Vache, who took his own and a friend's life with an overdose of opium, left this note: "To die alone is boring. I should prefer to die with one of my best freinds." Poet Eustach

Budgell threw himself into the river, leaving behind this terse note. "What Cata did and Addison approved cannot be wrong."

One authority on suicides has described them as artefacts of the most deadly of art forms, the ultimate in pre-graveyard graffiti. While in some cases, practicality is obviously combined with final instruction, in some other the desire to be light is equally clear.

Wrote one: "I wish to be burried in Uniondale Cemetery facing Marshal Ave so that I could see fair-weather friends."

A 40-year old labourer had the last dig in a political comment before ending his life: "My small estate I bequeath my mother; my body to the nearest accredited medical school; my soul and heart to all my girls; and my brain to Harry Truman."

GENERAL AWARENESS

The questions given below were set in Bihar Public Service Commission and Railway Recruitment Board examinations held recently

1. "Bombay High" is located away from Bombay at a distance of:
 - (a) 176 km
 - (b) 205 km
 - (c) 370 km
 - (d) 375 km
2. Two rivers of Dandkaranya region are:
 - (a) Nagawali and Bansdhara
 - (b) Khajoori and Ohla
 - (c) Dhasan and Kain
 - (d) None of these
3. Caribou is:
 - (a) an island
 - (b) an animal
 - (c) a river
 - (d) a plant
4. Indian example of glacial lake is:
 - (a) Dal Lake
 - (b) Sambhar Lake
 - (c) Bhimtal Lake
 - (d) Gunha Lake
5. West-ward flowing river is:
 - (a) Vaigai river
 - (b) Bharpa river
 - (c) Mahi river
 - (d) None of these
6. Kedarnath Peak is located in:
 - (a) Punjab Himalaya
 - (b) Kashmir Himalaya
 - (c) Nepal Himalaya
 - (d) None of these
7. Maithon Dam is constructed on:
 - (a) Koel river
 - (b) Damodar river
 - (c) Bokaro river
 - (d) Barakar river
8. Indira Gandhi Canal Project is located in:
 - (a) North-West Rajasthan
 - (b) South-East Rajasthan
 - (c) Western UP
 - (d) Madhya Pradesh
9. 'Tharu' is a tribe of:
 - (a) Damodar valley
 - (b) Dumka
 - (c) Palamau
 - (d) N. West Tarai region
10. The general slope of the Ganga plain in Bihar is in per kilometre:
 - (a) 35 cm
 - (b) 48 cm
 - (c) 59 cm
 - (d) 120 cm
11. In the production of Bauxite Bihar ranks:
 - (a) First
 - (b) Second
 - (c) Third
 - (d) Fifth
12. Iron was first used in India around:
 - (a) 1500 BC
 - (b) 1200 BC
 - (c) 800 BC
 - (d) 600 BC
13. What was the function of the *Rajukas* in Mauryan administration?
 - (a) They were spies
 - (b) They were tax-collectors
 - (c) They were judicial officers
 - (d) They were responsible for public welfare
14. Who among the following were the first to issue gold coins?
 - (a) Mauryas
 - (b) Indo-Greeks
 - (c) Kushanas
 - (d) Guptas
15. The Gupta empire was divided into smaller administrative units. The most important of these was:
 - (a) Vishaya
 - (b) Vithi
 - (c) Pradesha
 - (d) Bhukti
16. The *Surya-Siddhanta* of Aryabhatta was translated into Arabic by:
 - (a) al-Razi
 - (b) al-Fazari
 - (c) al-Biruni
 - (d) al-Farabi
17. Who among the following rulers was the first to set up a department of agriculture?
 - (a) Alauddin Khilji
 - (b) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
 - (c) Firoz Shah
 - (d) Sher Shah
18. The memoirs of Sultan Firoz Shah is known as:
 - (a) Tarikh-i Firoz Shahi
 - (b) Fatawa-i Firoz Shahi
 - (c) Dalail-i Firoz Shahi
 - (d) Futuhat-i Firoz Shahi
19. Akbar was influenced by earlier rulers in all his following measures, except:
 - (a) religious tolerance
 - (b) revenue system
 - (c) military administration
 - (d) theory of Kingship
20. Which of the following is the official history of the reign of Jahangir?
 - (a) Tuzuk-i Jahangiri
 - (b) Maasir-i Jahangiri
 - (c) Iqbalnama-i Jahangiri
 - (d) Tarikh-i Jahangiri
21. Aurangzeb levied higher trade-duties on Hindu traders:
 - (a) from the beginning of his reign
 - (b) in the year 1665
 - (c) in the year 1679
 - (d) in the year 1689
22. Jahangir allowed the English to begin their trade at Surat through a *farrman* granted to:
 - (a) William Hawkins
 - (b) Thomas Aldworth
 - (c) Edward Terry
 - (d) Sir Thomas Roe
23. The Governor-General who knew both Persian and Bengali languages was:
 - (a) Warren Hastings
 - (b) William Bentinck
 - (c) Lord Wellesley
 - (d) Lord Dalhousie
24. The Royal Asiatic Society was founded in India during the Governor-Generalship of:
 - (a) Warren Hastings
 - (b) William Bentinck
 - (c) Lord Hastings
 - (d) Lord Dalhousie
25. Which of the following statements about Lord Cornwallis is incorrect?
 - (a) He destroyed the power of Tipu Sultan
 - (b) He introduced Permanent Settlement
 - (c) Before coming to India he had been defeated by the American Colonists
 - (d) His term of office in India was from 1789 to 1798
26. Lord William Bentinck is remembered for his reforms. Which of the following was not implemented during his reign?
 - (a) Abolition of Sati
 - (b) Abolition of Slavery

- (c) Suppression of *Thugee*
 (d) Beginning of western education with English as the medium of instruction
27. Why did the British *not* annex Punjab after the first Sikh War?
 (a) The Company was averse to annexation
 (b) The Home Government was averse to annexation
 (c) Lord Hardinge needed more troops for this purpose
 (d) Lord Hardinge wanted to win over the Sikhs by liberal treatment
28. The Morley-Minto Reforms mainly aimed at
 (a) delegating more power to the Indians
 (b) wooing the Moderates in the Indian National Congress
 (c) expansion of the legislature
 (d) None of the above
29. Widow Marriage Association was founded by Justice Ranade and others in
 (a) 1859 (b) 1860
 (c) 1861 (d) 1869
30. Which of the following States has introduced the *Apni Beti Apna Dhan* scheme for the welfare of the girl-child?
 (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Tamil Nadu
 (c) Haryana (d) Rajasthan
31. A comparatively cool reddish star with diameter almost 35 times that of the Sun is
 (a) Super giant star (b) Giant star
 (c) Nova (d) Super Nova
32. Newt Gingrich has been in the news recently. He was
 (a) elected Speaker of the U.S. Senate
 (b) elected Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
 (c) nominated Presidential candidate by the Republican Party
 (d) nominated as candidate for the office of Vice-President by the Republican Party
33. Nick Leeson was arrested recently in Frankfurt. He is
 (a) an international terrorist
 (b) a political worker
 (c) former official of Baring Bank
 (d) None of the above
34. What is the *Hamas*?
 (a) Organisation of Palestinian Arabs supporting Israel
 (b) Militant organisation of Arabs responsible for terrorist violence against Israel
 (c) A co-ordination committee to supervise transfer of Power to Palestinian Arabs
 (d) None of the above
35. If father and mother possess A-group of blood, the children will have the group:
 (a) A (b) A or B
 (c) A, B (d) A or O
36. The density of pure water will be maximum on
 (a) 0°C (b) 4°C
 (c) 25°C (d) 100°C
37. Which of the following salt will show acidic character when dissolved in water?
 (a) Sodium chloride (b) Potassium chloride

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- (c) Lithium chloride (d) Ammonium chloride

38. The reproductive part of the plant is:
(a) Fruit (b) Seed
(c) Flower (d) Bud

39. In which class Amoeba & Malarial parasites can be placed?
(a) Bacteria (b) Virus
(c) Insect (d) Protozoa

40. Who discovered the treatment of rabies?
(a) J.J. Thomson (b) Darwin
(c) Pasteur (d) Khurana

41. X-ray was discovered by:
(a) Madame Curie (b) Marconi
(c) Michael Faraday (d) W.K. Roentgen

42. A person is feeling difficulty in seeing a distant object. Which of the following is needed?
(a) Concave lens
(b) Convex lens
(c) Both concave & convex lenses
(d) Sunglass

43. Which one of the following is an ore of aluminium?
(a) Haematite (b) Cuprite
(c) Bauxite (d) Siderite

44. The famous rock-cut temple at Kailasa is at:
(a) Ajanta (b) Badami
(c) Ellora (d) Elephanta

45. Which of the following animals is adopted to both aquatic and terrestrial life?
(a) Mammals (b) Birds
(c) Amphibians (d) Reptiles

46. Which one of the following places is known for lignite?
(a) Palana (b) Khetri
(c) Hazratbasti (d) Korba

47. Which one of the following is the source of energy in an ecosystem?
(a) Light received from the Sun
(b) Sugar stored in plants
(c) Heat liberated during fermentation of sugars
(d) Heat liberated during respiration

48. Which one of the following is the correct sequence of major agricultural food crops of India in descending order of production (according to weight)?
(a) Wheat, rice, sugarcane, pulses
(b) Coarse, cereals, pulses, oil seeds, sugarcane
(c) Pulses, wheat, rice, oil seeds
(d) Sugarcane, rice, wheat, coarse, cereals

49. The Sufi saint associated with Ajmer was:
(a) Shah Alam Bukhari
(b) Shaiih Shahab-ud-din Suhrawardi
(c) Muin-ud-din-chishti
(d) Saiyid Muhammad Gesudaraz

50. Which one of the following sets of places has both sea ports and oil refineries?
(a) Visakhapatnam, Madras, Cochin and Bombay
(b) Calcutta, Quilon, Kandla and Madras
(c) Marmagoa, Calicut, Visakhapatnam and Haldia
(d) Cochin, Haldia, Cuttack and Bombay

51. The Mughal emperor at the time of Ahmed Shah Abdali's invasion of India was:
(a) Bahadur Shah I (b) Bahadur Shah II
(c) Shah Alam I (d) Shah Alam II

52. Which one of the following influence the erosion of soil by water?
1. Slope of the land
2. Management practice like terracing
3. Soil Salinity
(a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 1 and 2
(c) 2 and 3 (d) 1 and 3

53. Lack of proper nutrition results in:
(a) Anaemia (b) Scurvy
(c) Diabetes (d) Fluorosis

54. An overwhelming majority of the images at Ajanta are those of:
(a) Siva (b) Vishnu
(c) The Buddha (d) Durga

55. Which Muslim lady had occupies the throne of Delhi in the Medieval period of Indian History?
(a) Chand Bibi (b) Mumtaz Mahal
(c) Razia Sultan (d) Noor Jehan

56. Who was the ruler of medieval India who is credited with the construction of the Grand Trunk Road?
(a) Alauddin Khilji (b) Sher Shah
(c) Akbar (d) Jehangir

57. Sir Thomas Roe, the duly accredited Ambassador, was sent by King James I of England to the court of:
(a) Shah Jahan (b) Jehangir
(c) Aurangzeb (d) Akbar

58. Which of the following sanctuary is well known for elephants?
(a) Chandra Prabha (b) Kanha
(c) Periyar (d) Parkal

59. The fifth storey of Qutab Minar was added by:
(a) Iltutmish (b) Alauddin
(c) Ghiasuddin Tughluq (d) Firuz Shah Tughluq

60. After his coronation, Shivaji assumed the title of:
(a) Maharaja (b) Peshwa
(c) Chhatrapati (d) Samrat

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

USAGE

Spotting Errors (Items 1 to 6)

Directions

(i) In this section six sentences are given. Each sentence has three parts, indicated by (a), (b) and (c). Read each sentence to find out whether there is an error. If you find an error in any one of the parts (a, b, c), indicate your response by blackening the letter related to that part in the Answer Sheet provided. If a sentence has no error, indicate this by blackening 'd' which stands for "No error".

(ii) Errors may be in grammar, appropriate word usage or idioms. Examples P and Q have been solved for you

P. My friend and myself(a) study together(b) during holidays.(c) No error.(d)

Q. The rice from Dehradun is(a) more superior(b) to that of Saharanpur.(c) No error.(d)

Explanation: The correct answer for P is letter 'd' because the sentence has no mistake in it. The correct answer for Q is 'b' because the mistake in the sentence is in the part carrying the letter 'b'.

Now attempt items 1 to 6.

1. The pirates who had hidden the treasure on the island, (a) returned back again because they thought(b) they could now remove it with safety.(c) No error.(d)

2. I asked him how far had he come(a) in his research but he just refused(b) to give me a straight answer.(c) No error.(d)

3. It is alleged that the number of athletes(a) taking performance-boosting drugs(b) are on the rise.(c) No error.(d)

4. They informed him that(a) he will have to pay the bill(b) when the goods arrived.(c) No error.(d)

5. When I reminded of the mistake(a) I had made(b) I was struck with a deep sense of remorse.(c) No error.(d)

6. A good statesman, like any other sensible human being(a) always learns more from his opponents(b) than from his fervent supporters.(c) No error.(d)

Sentence Improvement (Items 7 to 12)

Directions:

Look at the underlined part of each sentence. Below each sentence are given three possible substitutions for the underlined part. If one of them (a), (b) or (c) is better than the underlined part, indicate your response on the Answer Sheet against the corresponding letter (a), (b) or (c). If none of the substitutions improve the sentence, indicate (d) as your response on the Answer Sheet. Thus a 'No improvement' response will be signified by the letter (d). Examples R and S have been solved for you.

R. The young child sung a very sweet song

- (a) singed the
- (b) singed
- (c) sang a
- (d) No improvement

S I have already read this book twice.

- (a) I already twice have read this book
- (b) I twice have already read this book.
- (c) I have twice already read this book.
- (d) No improvement

Explanation: For item R, the correct sentence should read, "The young child sang a very sweet song". 'c' is therefore, the correct answer.

Item S is a correct sentence. None of the changes suggested will improve it. 'd' is therefore, the correct answer.

Errors may be in grammar, appropriate word usage or idioms. There may be a necessary word missing or there may be a word which should be removed.

Now attempt items 7 to 12.

7. Unless you stop to interfere in the matter, I'll go away.

- (a) by interfering
- (b) from interfering
- (c) interfering
- (d) No improvement

8. I have been knocking at the door five times; I don't think anybody is in.

- (a) am knocking
- (b) had been knocking
- (c) have knocked
- (d) No improvement

9. Supposing if he fails again, will he be able to hold his head high?

- (a) Suppose he fails
- (b) Suppose if he fails
- (c) Supposing he will fail
- (d) No improvement

10. They will come if you will invite them.

- (a) would invite
- (b) invite
- (c) did invite
- (d) No improvement

11. A man's modesty is in inverse proportion with his ignorance.

- (a) with inverse proportion to
- (b) in inverse proportion to
- (c) at inverse proportion with
- (d) No improvement

12. The jury could not arrive at any decision in the strength of scanty evidence.

- (a) with the strength of
- (b) on the strength of
- (c) on strength with
- (d) No improvement

Synonyms (Items 13 to 17)

Directions:

In this Section you find a number of sentences, parts of which are underlined. You may also find only a group of words which is underlined. For each underlined part, four words/phrases are listed below. Choose the word/phrase nearest in meaning to the underlined part and blacken the corresponding space on the Answer Sheet.

Example 'E' is solved for you.

E. His style is quite transparent.

- (a) verbose
- (b) involved
- (c) lucid
- (d) witty

Explanation: In item 'E' the word "lucid" is nearest in meaning to the word "transparent". So 'c' is the correct answer.

Now attempt items 13 to 17.

13. Sohrab parried the blow aimed at him by Rustum.

- (a) evaded
- (b) opposed
- (c) defied
- (d) sparred

14. He has been exonerated by the court.

- (a) forgiven
- (b) suspended
- (c) declared innocent
- (d) warned

15. The teacher reiterated his statement.

- (a) contradicted
- (b) disputed
- (c) repeated
- (d) elaborated

16. We agreed to have the Town Hall as the rendezvous for all the scout-troops.

- (a) assembly
- (b) camping ground
- (c) picnic spot
- (d) meeting place

17. The striking labourers attempted to intimidate the loyal and dutiful labourers.

- (a) persuade (b) attack
- (c) inform (d) threaten

Antonyms (Items 18 to 22)

Directions:

In this Section each item consists of a word or a phrase which is underlined in the sentence given. It is followed by four words or phrases. Select the word or phrase which is closest in meaning to the opposite of the underlined word or phrase.

Example "F" has been solved for you.

F. Lucy is a smart girl.

- (a) lazy (b) active
- (c) indecent (d) casual

Explanation: The word "lazy" is nearest in meaning to the opposite of the word "smart". So 'a' is the correct answer.

Now attempt items 18 to 22.

18. The expression on his face clearly showed that his mother's condition had deteriorated

- (a) aggravated
- (b) improved
- (c) worsened
- (d) changed

19. The pupils of your eyes dilate when you enter a dark room.

- (a) distend (b) contract
- (c) blink (d) stretch

20. A feeling of stillness, almost of ecstasy, came over Miriam.

- (a) grief (b) bereavement
- (c) sorrow (d) agony

21. His behaviour was reprehensible.

- (a) admirable
- (b) comprehensible
- (c) responsible
- (d) representative

22. The recommendation was discarded.

- (a) highlighted
- (b) forwarded
- (c) elaborated

(d) accepted.

COMPREHENSION

(Items 23 to 34)

Directions:

In this Section you have four short passages. After each passage you will find several questions based on the passage. First, read Passage I and answer the questions based on it. Then go on to the other passages.

Examples 'I' and 'J' are solved for you.

Passage

In our approach to life, be it pragmatic or otherwise, a basic fact that confronts us squarely and unmistakably is the desire for peace, security, and happiness. Different forms of life at different levels of existence make up the teeming denizens of this earth of ours. And, no matter whether they belong to the higher groups such as human beings or to the lower groups such as animals, all beings primarily seek peace, comfort and security. Life is as dear to a mute creature as it is to a man. Even the lowliest insect strives for protection against dangers that threaten its life. Just as each one of us wants to live and not to die, so do all other creatures.

I. The author's main point is that

- (a) different forms of life are found on earth
- (b) different levels of existence are possible in nature
- (c) peace and security are the chief goals of all living beings
- (d) even the weakest creature struggles to preserve its life

J. Which one of the following assumptions or steps is essential in developing the author's position?

- (a) All forms of life have a single overriding goal.
- (b) The will to survive of a creature is identified with a desire for peace.
- (c) All beings are divided into higher and lower groups.
- (d) A parallel is drawn between happiness and life, and pain and death.

Explanation:

I. The idea which represents the author's main point is 'peace and security are the chief goals of all living beings', which is response (c). So 'c' is the correct answer.

J. The best assumption underlying the passage is "The will to survive of a creature is identified with a desire for

peace", which is response (b). So 'b' is the correct answer.

Now attempt items 23 to 34.

Passage I (Items 23 to 25)

The first spectacles in England were highly ridiculed. Physicians scorned them and feared them, and stuck to their eye-ointments and lotions. The clergy violently opposed them, saying it was impertinent defiance against the hand of God to try to restore failing sight. But the fame of spectacles spread, partly because of the ridiculous caricatures of the artist William Hogarth. Pantaloon, the comic old man of Italian folk drama, often wore spectacles. Gradually, of course, people needing visual aid tried them and the spectacles themselves won out over opposition and ridicule.

23. The passage states that the first spectacles in England were

- (a) greatly admired
- (b) greatly made fun of
- (c) deeply loved
- (d) highly respected

24. The fame of the spectacles spread partly because

- (a) the clergy made fun of them
- (b) the Italian folk used them
- (c) the artist William Hogarth caricatured them
- (d) the physicians scorned them

25. The clergy opposed the use of spectacles because

- (a) William Hogarth made fun of them
- (b) the physicians scorned them
- (c) the clergy wanted people to go blind
- (d) they were not created by God

ANSWERS

1. (b) 'returned again because they thought'
2. (a) 'I asked him how far he had come'
3. (c) 'is on the rise'
4. (b) 'he would have to pay the bill'
5. (a) 'when I was reminded of the mistake'
6. (d) No error.
7. (c) 8. (c) 9. (d) 10. (b)
11. (b) 12. (b) 13. (a) 14. (c)
15. (c) 16. (d) 17. (d) 18. (b)
19. (b) 20. (c) 21. (a) 22. (d)
23. (b) 24. (c) 25. (d)

(Balance questions will appear in September 1997 issue)

National News

INDIA GETS A NEW PRIME MINISTER

Nobody expected the Deve Gowda government to last very long, but when it fell after 10 months, there was surprise and dismay at the way the fall was brought about. It was not a fight among the coalition members that brought it down, but withdrawal of support by the Congress. On April 21, 1997 Mr Inder Kumar Gujral took over as the 12th Prime Minister of India



Mr Deve Gowda's term was an eventful one, during which he pursued economic reforms, overcoming pressures from within the 13-party coalition that he led. He also took initiatives to improve Centre-State relations. Elections were held in Kashmir after a gap of seven years and the demand for Statehood for Uttarakhand was accepted.

The credibility of the Congress took a beating in the process. The withdrawal of support appeared to be without reason except for the speculation that its leader Kesi wanted to become PM himself or that the party wanted the government to go slow on investigations against its leaders. There was a minor revolt in the Congress, with leaders questioning why the country had

been destabilised for such petty motives.

The appointment of Inder Kumar Gujral as PM was hailed by the media. As a long-time diplomat and Foreign Minister in the Deve Gowda government, he had taken new initiatives to improve relations with neighbours, a process which came to be known as the "Gujral doctrine". How long the government would last, was again uncertain as there were pressures from coalition partners and from the Congress, who declared that it could not be ignored



Expectations of the people that leaders who had sold the country would be punished were dashed in the first half of 1997. Cases fizzled out or dragged on in courts and often resulted in acquittal of the accused for want of evidence, giving the impression that certain people were indeed above the law.

The hawala scandal related to illegal foreign exchange transactions and diaries recovered from the prime accused S.K. Jain and his brother J.K. Jain had shown that many of the country's top leaders were involved in money laundering. Though the diaries were recovered in 1993, no action had been taken and two jour-

nalists, Rajinder Puri and Vineet Narain had filed a public interest litigation alleging a massive cover-up. The Jain brothers were arrested in March, 1995. The CBI chargesheeted 29 politicians and 16 bureaucrats in the hawala case.

On April 8, 1997, the Delhi High Court quashed charges against BJP president L.K. Advani, former Union Minister V.C. Shukla and the Jain brothers. The court ruled that the diaries were not admissible as evidence. Later, others charged in the case—Madhav Rao Scindia,

Arjun Singh,
N.D. Tiwari
and R.K.

Dhawan—were also cleared. In the St Kitts Forgery case, Delhi High Court dropped charges against former Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and former Union Minister K.K. Tewary. The case related to the fabrication of documents to show that V.P. Singh's son was operating an account in St Kitts.

Another serious case involving harbouring terrorists by a former Union Minister fizzled out. Kalpnath Rai, who had been sentenced to a 10-year jail term for harbouring terrorists involved in the 1993 Mumbai shoot-out, was granted bail by the Supreme Court. The court also passed strictures

A ROUND UP OF LAST 12 MONTHS

INDIA GETS NEW PRIME MINISTER

SCANDALS

BROADCASTING BILL

WOMEN RESERVATION BILL

STATE OF ECONOMY

BUSINESS

FOREIGN RELATIONS

DISASTERS

THE STATES

PUNJAB POLICE PAYING THE PRICE

UP AND BIHAR RISE OF ANARCHY

KASHMIR SEARCHING FOR PEACE

THE NORTH EAST

against Judge S.N. Dhingra, who had issued the earlier judgement. The CBI had charged Rai of accommodating terrorists in a NTPC guest house in Delhi. Rai's plea was that the guest house was booked by his secretary without his knowledge.

The credibility of the CBI suffered in these cases. It was felt that charge sheets were filed in haste, without proper investigations. The credibility

of the Supreme Court also took a beating because it had earlier adopted an activist stance in the *hawala* case. If diaries were not considered evidence enough, there was perhaps no need to berate the CBI for not taking action. Likewise, Kalpnath Rai was granted bail on a flimsy excuse that he did not know about the actions of his secretary. Since most of the work of ministers is done by their secretaries on verbal or-

ders of the minister, the judgement amounted to granting immunity to ministers while making their secretaries responsible for acts of omission. The trends in 1997 perhaps showed the fate of other cases which were being heard by courts and which had gained a lot of media coverage.

One such case which had cornered a lot of media coverage was the *fodder scandal*. Crores of rupees had been siphoned off by officials in the Bihar animal husbandry case by showing fraudulent purchases of fodder. The involvement of bureaucrats and even the Chief Minister could not be ruled out.

On April 27, 1997, the CBI decided to prosecute Bihar Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav, senior Congress leader Jagannath Mishra, Union Minister of State for Rural Development Chandradev Prasad Verma and 53 others. Yadav refused to resign under mounting pressure, even after the Governor had granted permission to prosecute him.

A Treat for the Chattering Classes



If the latter part of 1996 and the first part of 1997 are to be labelled, the period can well be called a treat for those whose hobby is to analyse national issues, the chattering classes. The country was caught in issues which had several viewpoints, and commentators did not let go of the opportunity to deliver their verdicts. In terms of actual work done, there was nothing to show: after months of CBI investigations which had kindled hopes in the hearts of many Indians that the corrupt leaders would finally be punished, most were let off for lack of evidence. One wondered what the investigations were all about, when the evidence in each case was known to begin with. Somehow, the judicial system and its scolding the CBI to file chargesheets, began to seem like a well-rehearsed drama which resulted in little confidence in the common man.

The political situation gave more masala to the chattering classes. The country was plunged into a political crisis and the Prime Minister was changed for no apparent reason; even the stalwarts of the Congress were appalled at the thoughtless action of withdrawing support to the UP government. While the politicians played their games, no thought was given to what was happening in the States. Law and order had broken down in Bihar as the Chief Minister fought hard to save his chair. In Uttar Pradesh, the newly appointed Chief Minister used State machinery to diminish political opponents, giving little thought to more urgent matters. The North-East remained neglected and saw insurgency getting stronger by the day.

The suicide of Punjab police officer Ajit Singh Sandhu brought the debate on human rights and the duty of those who fought terrorism into sharp focus. There were no answers to the questions put forth by former police chief K.P.S. Gill. Could the security forces fight battles in Kashmir and other areas if they were to be prosecuted later on for human rights violations?

On the economic front, growth slowed down despite a 'dream budget' presented by the government. Conflicting signals were sent on liberalisation when the Tata-SIA proposal was shot down; the Broadcasting Bill was also a means to keep foreigners away while limiting even Indian media houses. In spite of public declarations, the government found it hard to give up control of key areas for the general good of the economy.

The chattering classes were kept busy also by the introduction of Women's Reservation Bill as the government flip-flopped over the issue. Rather than address the issue, politicians were flippant: Sharad Yadav thundered that short-haired women should not exercise their democratic rights.

A poor woman seeking to rent out her womb raised discussion on whether surrogate motherhood was legal, bringing heated discussion on an issue which was essentially a personal one.

In presenting the Round-Up of National and International Affairs, we have departed from tradition and given brief backgrounders on the events that have cornered newspaper headlines in the past 12 months. Other events that dominated the news are mentioned as snippets. This compendium of knowledge would be ideal for those wanting a quick look at the year as well as the what shaped the events.

BROADCASTING BILL

CONTROLLING THE AIRWAVES

The proliferation of satellite channels took away broadcasting monopoly from the government, ill-qualified to meet the challenge from the skies. The dowdy Doordarshan programmes were changed



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somewhat, but the foreign channels were bolder and glossier. Desperately trying to regain its position, the government introduced the Broadcasting Bill in the Lok Sabha on May 16, 1997, aimed at regulating broadcasting in the country. The logic seemed to be what you can't compete with, you try to control by legislation.

Under the provisions of the Bill, all broadcasters will have to obtain a license and abide by a code to be devised by the Broadcasting Authority of India. Cross media ownership would be restricted as a person with 20 per cent equity in one media would not get an operating license in another media. Each broadcaster could get a license for only one service. Broadcasters with more than 49 per cent foreign equity would not be given a license.

The Bill came in for a lot of criticism. A newspaper owner could not use his expertise to start a radio or TV channel, but someone with an unrelated business, say, of manufacturing toilet soap could start one. In recent years, a number of media owners have diversified and started channels which became highly popular. Radio staged a comeback when FM services were started in the metros; these will have to shut down. The Bill would also hack or alter popular entertainment and news programmes while the Broadcasting Authority would formulate regulations for Direct-To-Home (DTH) services.

WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL

Another Bill that kept the political parties busy in discussion was the Women's Reservation Bill. We live in an era where social justice is sought to be achieved by introducing more and more reservations.

This time it was the women who were to be uplifted by reserving 33 per cent seats for them in Parliament.

The Bill aroused passions and heated discussion but could not be passed because of many objections. Introduced in Parliament by Mr Deve Gowda, it was referred to a



SNIPPETS

Fiftieth Year The government woke up to celebrate 50th anniversary of Indian independence by appointing a plethora of committees and sub-committees. Even as other countries organised events, there was nothing in evidence in our own country. Festivities will begin after August 15th when marches, laser shows and similar events may be organised.

A New President With the term of President of India Shankar Dayal Sharma ending on July 24, 1997, the Election Commission fixed July 14, 1997 as the date for the presidential election. K R Narayanan emerged as the consensus candidate while T N Seshan was also in the fray.

Prohibition While prohibition continued in Haryana, the revenue-starved Talaga Dasam government led by Chandrababu Naidu decided to scrap it because of financial constraints.

Reservations The Supreme Court made it clear that reservation in promotion for government employees belonging to Scheduled Castes or Tribes would come to an end on November 15, 1997 unless a special legislation was enacted by Parliament.

Congress Elections Sitaram Kasri won an overwhelming victory in the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) elections, beating Rajesh Pilot and Sherad Pawar.

Punjab Elections In the Punjab Assembly elections held on February 9, 1997, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)-BJP alliance scored an absolute majority. A 10-member ministry under Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal was sworn in.

A Hero in Bengal Jyoti Basu created a record by completing 20 years of uninterrupted rule on June 17, 1997. Though problems are rising, his popularity remains undiminished. Minister of Information and Home, Buddhadeb Bhattacharya, is expected to succeed Basu.

Computer whizkid Bill Gates visited India in March, 1997 amid media hype, giving a boost to the information technology industry.

Privatisation The government decided to de-nationalise the coal industry on February 11, 1997. Nationalised in 1973 by Mrs Indira Gandhi, the step would remove inefficiencies in the coal sector and criminalisation of the coal belt in Bihar.

Oil exploration The government announced a new exploration policy on March 18, 1997 to give a boost to oil exploration, as a first step to dismantle government regulations in the sector.

Oil prices The oil pool deficit account is expected to be Rs 24,500 crore this year. The proposal to hike oil prices was shot down by the Left parties and the government was forced to look at alternatives.

Pay Commission Government employees made some noises but were happy with the Pay Commission report, giving top bureaucrats pay rises of 130 per cent and the lower levels 20 per cent with a cost of Rs 2,300 crore to the nation. The report also suggested linking productivity with pay, having a 6-day work week, limiting the number of holidays and downsizing the workforce by 30 per cent over 10 years.

Power The power situation in the country remains pathetic. In Kerala, a 100 per cent power cut was imposed on industry on June 8, 1997. Over 1.5 lakh workers face lay off and the industry suffers a loss of Rs 30 crore per day. Chief Minister E K Nayanar was in Canada to raise money for a cancer hospital. In Maharashtra, a hike in power rates has caused 20 per cent of small scale units to shut down.

Match fixing Ex-cricket star Manoj Prabhakar alleged that he had been offered bribes by a team member to throw away a match, but did not divulge the name of the player involved. Was it a serious allegation or a publicity stunt by a cricketer who was thrown out of the team?

Internet madness A computer hack posted Pooja Bhatt's face on a nude body and placed it on an Internet site for all to download. The actress was upset when the picture was printed by a film magazine on its cover and threatened to sue.

standing committee but OBC members opposed the bill saying that it would adversely affect OBCs. Janata Dal working president Sharad Yadav suggested the bill be further subdivided on the basis of caste so that seats could be apportioned on the basis

of their respective population. Within the United Front too there were differing opinions so the bill was deferred. It was decided to subject the bill to a debate but women activists pointed out that the reservation was undertaken only after a debate had taken place.

The women clamoured for passing of the bill and the response of Prime Minister Gujral was to induct four women ministers in his cabinet. If not reservation, perhaps the women could feel happy that at least four of them had made it to the Cabinet, thanks to the noise created on the subject.

THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY

The country continued to pursue the policy of globalisation despite changes on the political front. The year saw the start of the Ninth Five-Year Plan (1997-2002), while the budget for 1997-98 brought drastic changes in the tax structure. Changes in the Exim policy and overhaul of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) was proposed.

Ninth Plan Approach Paper: The Approach Paper to the Ninth Plan proposes a growth rate of 7 per cent, while annual growth rate of industries is aimed at 9.7 per cent. The growth of exports in dollar terms is expected to be 14.5 per cent and agricultural sector is proposed to grow at 4.5 per cent. Domestic savings are pegged at 26.2 per cent while the investment rate 28.6 per cent of GDP. The plan size is Rs 8,75,000 crore.

Pre-budget economic survey: The pre-budget economic survey notes the gaps in infrastructure, increasing trend in prices, falling growth rate of exports and increasing deficit. To meet a growth rate of 7 per cent, it highlighted the need for increasing foreign direct investment to \$ 10 billion from the current level of \$ 2-3 billion.



Higher oil imports had led to increase in oil pool deficit of Rs 15,000 crore. Growth rate of industry came down from 13 per cent in 1995-96 to 10 per cent. External debt stood at \$ 92 billion and foreign exchange reserves stood at \$ 17 billion. There was a sharp decline in foodgrain production by 3.4 per cent which is expected to be reversed in 1996-97.

Union Budget: The budget for 1997-98 continued the process of reforms by rationalising income tax rates and providing relief on a number of items. Outlays for poverty alleviation, employment generation and rural development were raised significantly.

The rate of provident fund was increased to 10 per cent from 8.33 per cent. In scheduled industries, it would be increased from 10 to 12 per cent. Subsidies on fertilisers were raised by Rs 1,000 crore to Rs 5245 crore, while for foodgrains and sugar the subsidies were kept at Rs 7,500 crore.

Income tax rates were reduced. The maximum rate was brought down to 30 per cent from the earlier level of 40 per cent while the minimum rate now is 10 per cent. To widen the tax rate, people living in metros satisfying any two of the

conditions of owning a car, immovable property, telephone or a foreign visit in the previous year, must file income tax returns. For retail traders, a new simplified scheme was introduced. A Voluntary Income Disclosure Scheme (VIDS) was introduced, under which disclosures would be taxed at 30 per cent.

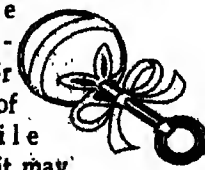
Changes were introduced in other areas too. Tax on dividends was abolished to avoid double taxation. Surcharge on corporate tax was removed and excise duty on certain items was reduced, including computers, televisions, mobile phones, telecom equipment, watches and toiletry items. Peak rate of custom duty was reduced to 40 per cent, by 10 per cent.

Railway budget: The railway budget, presented on February 26, 1997, increased freight on all commodities by 12 per cent, while exempting 15 essential commodities of PDS and mass consumption. Second class sleeper travel was increased by 5 per cent, while travel by higher classes was increased by 10 per cent. Provisions of Rs 400 crore was made for building infrastructure in the north-east, of Rs 400 crore for new lines and survey of 37 new line projects. The annual plan of the railways for 1997-98 is Rs 8,300 crore.

SURROGATE MOTHERHOOD

Surrogate motherhood is not a new concept. Childless couples often take recourse to this method of parenthood which is prevalent all over the world, including India. A debate was sparked off when a domestic help in Chandigarh decided to rent her womb for Rs 50,000 to a childless couple. The arrangement suited both parties: the couple would get a child which they were unable to bear while the surrogate mother, Nirmala, would get the money which she wanted for treatment of her paralysed husband. Except for the police, which wanted to book her under the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act (SITA), the matter went to court, and the government has to work out a response or a law that accepts the concept of commercial surrogate mothers.

The case is important because it represents a society coming to terms with present-day issues. It may also legitimise the concept of surrogate motherhood. For millions of infertile couples, it may



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provide a solution for a common problem. Minister of State for Family Welfare Renuka Chowdhury said that renting out a womb was a personal decision and the decision of the police to use the provisions of SITA in this case was hasty.

BUSINESS

The first half of 1997 saw the unfurling of another business fraud. When there was a run on deposits of CRB Capital Markets, a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), it soon became clear that the company had swindled upto Rs 1,200

crore, further eroding the confidence of depositors. Its promoter, C R. Bhansali, was arrested and brought back from Hong Kong where he had fled and investigations showed a web of bribery and fraud. Institutions like RBI, SEBI, SBI and credit rating agencies had failed to do their duties.

Though they described it as another 'systemic failure', officials working in these agencies had chosen to overlook the misappropriations by the company. When some officials of the SBI were suspended, the others went on strike. Bhansali alleged that the trick had been to providing foreign tickets and cars to senior bureaucrats and politicians. A donation of Rs 7 lakh to Jaipur Foot Foundation, controlled by SFBI chairman D.R. Mehta may have circumvented SEBI's role. But it was clear that the investors, which included individuals to reputed banks, would not see their money again.

The Tata-Singapore Airlines joint venture ran into rough weather and was rejected by the government for no apparent reason but for a personal aversion of Civil Aviation Minister C.M. Ibrahim, showing that while there was a lot of talk about liberalisation, the government often does the opposite of what it preached. By keeping Indian skies free from competition, the government sought to protect the State-owned airlines with their shoddy service, but it also sent out a signal that the license *my* was still

alive and well.

Launched with much fanfare, Amitabh Bachchan's company ABCL hit the rock bottom. Recovering from losses made from hosting the Miss World event, the company's hopes were dashed when *Mrityudata* flopped. It could not meet its financial commitments and its workforce was trimmed. The audio division was saved by Gulshan Kumar of T-series while the company looked for buyers for its other divisions. The company struggled in a financial mess while its hopes rested on the next film awaiting release—*Major Sahib*.



FOREIGN RELATIONS

The elevation of Inder Kumar Gujral as India's Prime Minister raised hopes of improving relations with neighbours. His term started favourably, with a fresh approach in Indo-Pak relations. He shares a rapport with his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif. At the SAARC summit in Male held on May 12-14, 1997, this was very much evident as the two leaders exchanged talks.

Indo-Pak talks have bogged down in the past on the issue of Kashmir. India wants to go by the Shimla Agreement and insists that Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) is part of India. India regards Kashmir as an integral part of the country. Earlier Prime Ministers of Pakistan have latched on to the Kashmir bogie to whip up anti-India sentiments, the government of Benazir Bhutto raised the issue in practically every international forum and was often snubbed.

The Gujral-Sharif talks at Male thus pointed to a new beginning. Some confidence building measures were taken up. It was agreed to have a hotline between the two lead-

DISASTERS

Disasters continued to hog the headlines. On November 12, 1996, nearly 350 people were killed in a mid-air collision of a Saudi jet and a liner near migrants going abroad drowned.



An Airways jumbo Kazakhstan air-Dehli. Illegal including 227 Indians for a good job were near Malta. An earthquake in Madhya Pradesh claimed 40 lives and left a trail of destruction in Jabalpur on May 23, 1997. A fire in a temple in Thanjavur killed 39 people. In Dehradun, 11 NCC cadets were drowned on June 7, 1997 in the Yamuna where they had gone to take a bath. A film show in Uphaar theatre in New Delhi on June 13, 1997 turned into a death trap when a transformer caught fire and thick smoke engulfed the hall. Some 60 people were choked to death.

The disasters showed the inability of authorities to respond effectively. In the case of natural disasters it is not only the rescue but also providing alternate dwellings for the affected people. In Jabalpur, the affected people wait in their damaged houses for the monsoons, which will undoubtedly wreak more havoc. In the case of fires and accidents, it is the negligence that comes into focus. The country has a strong *chalta hai* attitude and electric faults are often rectified by a patchwork approach. These become time bombs, which may explode at any time, causing great damage. For every disaster that occurs, there are several more waiting to happen.

ers, to establish working groups to handle contentious issues such as Kashmir, and a meeting of foreign ministers to sort out other problems

Much depends on whether the two countries can overcome their obsession with Kashmir, or at least set it aside while increasing cooperation in other areas. It would also be important whether both Gujral and Sharif last out their full terms. While Gujral rests on a shaky coalition which can be brought down at the whim of the Congress party, Sharif too must tread carefully and not irritate the military establishment in his country

The Indo-Bangladesh accord on sharing of Ganga waters signed in December, 1996, was expected to improve relations between the two countries. The visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina too

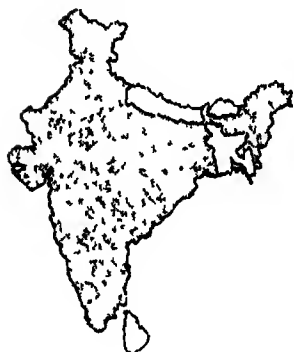
was a good sign. The accord, however, turned out to be a failure because the water flow has reduced considerably and both countries get less than what was envisaged. The river is important for both countries and steps would have to be taken to work out a new treaty so that friction between the two countries decrease. Trade cooperation is expected to increase with the signing of a trade treaty in March, 1997

Relations with Nepal have improved since signing of the Mahakali treaty in February, 1996. India has since made several unilateral concessions on trade and transit routes without anything in return. Nor is there any reciprocity expected under the Treaty of Trade signed in 1996 which has provided duty-free access to all Nepalese made goods. On his visit to Nepal on June 5-7, 1997,

Prime Minister Gujral announced a surprise concession for Nepal's civil aviation sector on transit rights to Bangladesh. Gujral's largesse has certainly made a difference in relations with neighbours, though questions are being raised whether unilateral generosity is the best way to win friends

The visit of Chinese President Jiang Zemin in November, 1996 represented the thawing of relations between the two countries. Though there are many contentious issues, growth of bilateral trade had reached \$ 1.2 billion in 1995. Zemin's visit resulted in a dialogue towards better relations. They agreed on a series of confidence building measures and committed themselves against the military capability against each other.

THE STATES



PUNJAB POLICE: PAYING THE PRICE

The suicide of Punjab police officer Ajit Singh Sandhu brought out glaring contradictions in the country's fight against terrorism. Punjab had witnessed a prolonged spell of terrorism and at its peak, the integrity of the Indian State seemed to be in danger. Evidence had been linked to training camps in Pakistan.

Officers like Sandhu fought the designs of the separatists at a time when the police force had been demoralised. The Tarn Taran district, where Sandhu was posted, was one of the worst

affected and no police officer wanted to be posted there.

The war against terrorism has been won, only to be replaced by legal battles against the police officers for alleged human rights violations. In 1995, there were 585 petitions filed, 2000 officers are under investigation and there are 85 CBI and 91 judicial probes. Sandhu was even jailed and was assaulted by militants against whom he had fought. He was involved in a plethora of cases which ensured that he spent everyday appearing in some hearing or the other. Pushed to the wall, he committed suicide, jolting the system and the judiciary.

Former police chief K.P.S. Gill raised some important points after Sandhu's suicide. The popular government, which could not be installed without the bravery of police officers, had now turned against the same officers. Human rights organisations did not dare to raise their voice or found any human rights violations when innocent people were being pulled out of buses and trains and slaughtered but were hounding police officers now. The State government has paid out Rs 80 lakh as compensation in 18 cases, which has attracted more petitions.

Gill's arguments had implications for the entire coun-

try: 1) Should terrorism be allowed to linger on in Punjab? 2) Should soldiers put their life at stake in low intensity conflicts or should they protect the human rights of the terrorist? 3) Can a war against insurgents, financed by a foreign power, be fought strictly by legal means? 4) Does the country have no responsibility towards officers who fight for the integrity of the nation?

UP AND BIHAR: Rise of Anarchy

The breakdown of law and order, and the mismanaging of public funds in UP and Bihar was the direct fallout of divisive politics in the two States. An opportunistic BJP-BSP coalition in UP resulted in Mayawati becoming Chief Minister for six months. She wasted no time and started her term by transferring police officials and bureaucrats, dividing the State and creating new districts. Mulayam Singh Yadav claimed that his party workers were being targeted. While the two leaders fought verbal duels, the State declined further with dacoities and caste wars on the rise.

Bihar's Chief Minister Laloo Yadav, on the other hand, was too busy trying to protect himself from the allegations in the fodder scam. His reaction to the charges was to hold *maharailas* and to distribute sarees to the people. That did not prevent the CBI from closing in and filing chargesheets against him and the other accused. Governor A.R. Kidwai granted sanction

to prosecute him. Demands for his resignation increased but he refused to step down. The law and order situation went from bad to worse. Train dacoities and a complete break-down of law-enforcing agencies resulted, making Bihar India's "Wild West".

KASHMIR: Searching for Peace

The hopes that a popular government in Kashmir would result in peace were dashed as terrorist strikes continued. Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, who had started his term by warning the terrorists, found himself at his wit's end. Several Kashmiri Pandits were shot dead on March 21, 1997, causing an exodus of families to Jammu. Bombs also exploded in the local bus stand, near the venue of a Daler Mehndi concert, killing 17 people. News of deaths of security personnel and terrorists continued throughout the year.

It became clear that the mere installation of a popular government would not result in the defeat of terrorism, especially as it gained support from across the border. What is required is strong political will coupled with freedom for security forces. While there is evidence that local support is declining for the terrorists, their repeated strikes have shown the ineffectiveness of the government to deal with the problem. It was hoped that the process of normalisation as in Punjab would take place in Kashmir too, but the killings showed that the valley had a

long way to go before its people would see peace.

THE NORTH-EAST

The North-Eastern States have seen some of the worst killings in recent times. The area is neglected by the Centre and ravaged by extremist outfits, which makes life a hell for the inhabitants. Bloody episodes have continued all through 1996. In February, 1997, some 90 Bengalis were butchered in communist-ruled Tripura. The Disturbed Areas Act was imposed, which enables the Army to intervene and giving powers to paramilitary forces to shoot at sight. The violence was attributed to the All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) and the National Liberation Force of Tripura (NLTF).

Earlier, in Assam, the Bodo Liberation Tigers had set off a bomb under the Brahmaputra Mail, killing 50 people. They are pressing for a separate State. Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, who had led his Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) to power, had promised to remove the Army but found that he had no alternative but to rely on security forces. Two of the six regional commanders of the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) were killed.

Insurgency in North-Eastern States is a result of years of apathy and neglect. Though the area is bountiful, little has been done to develop the States. People live in geo-political isolation. There are no schools, hospitals, power plants or industries; the ab-

sence of roads and airlinks have also cut off the area from tourist traffic.

The region has suffered considerably after Partition. With only 1 per cent of its boundaries touching India, independence resulted in cutting off from their roots and routes. Insurgency was the natural outcome of these neglected States. There is a vicious circle existing now—there is violence and insurgency due to lack of development, while industries do not go there because of the violence. The deployment of the Army further alienates the people. A new threat has been added with the rise of Muslim fundamentalist organisations in Assam for self-defence and to demand a separate homeland for the State's 35 per cent Muslim population. The area also is tense because influx of people from countries like Bangladesh, which has reduced the locals to a minority.

Insurgency has also led to extortionists and robbers. In many States, demands are made on industries or those who work there. Tea companies in Assam reportedly pay upto Rs 10 lakh per year to rebel outfits. Money is collected from doctors, engineers and professionals. Extortion is a major economic activity in States starved of opportunities. Yet, it is doubtful that the Indian government thinks seriously about the North-East. Former Prime Minister Deve Gowda announced a Rs 6,000 crore package for development of the area; but nothing has happened on the promise since.

international News



A ROUND UP OF LAST 12 MONTHS

THE MIDDLE EAST

NEIGHBOURS

PAKISTAN

CHINA

BANGLADESH

NEPAL

SRI LANKA

AFGHANISTAN

MYANMAR

PERU

HOSTAGE CRISIS

UNITED NATIONS

SUMMITS/CONFERENCES

POST COLD WAR WORLD

CHANGE OF GOVERNMENTS

WORLD ECONOMY

DISASTERS

THE MIDDLE EAST

The Middle East never stays out of the news for long and continued to hog the headlines. The election of hard-liner Benjamin Netanyahu as Israel's Prime Minister expectedly created more opportunities for conflict. In September, 1996, the decision to open a tourist tunnel along Muslim holy sites in East Jerusalem sparked widespread protests, including gun battles between Palestinians and the Israeli troops. For a brief period, it seemed that the two would go to war, but 79 people had been killed by the time that hostilities ceased. The last provocation came when the Israeli government disregarded all warnings and started construction on the Har Homa housing project on March 18, 1997, in the south of Jerusalem. This was the first phase of 2,600 Jewish homes of the project for 6,500 homes to be constructed on Mount Abu Ghneim. The project had been cleared by the previous

Labour government but had been kept pending in regard of Palestinian feelings. Netanyahu defied international condemnation and started the construction.

The Arabs were enraged, since the Har Homa project is the last link of the chain of settlements surrounding Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank. This would cut off Arab claims to the city. The Arabs responded with violence and bomb blasts shook Tel Aviv and other cities. There were riots in Hebron as well and the Oslo peace process was almost brought to the verge of collapse.

Netanyahu faced domestic troubles as well. He failed to have cordial relations with his army commanders and his relations with the press and Likud colleagues were also not friendly. He was further embroiled in the Bar-On affair. He had appointed Roni Bar-On as the Attorney General but the volley of public criticism had caused him to resign. A TV station revealed that the appointment had been part of a deal to appease an Opposition leader who threatened to block the proposal to pull Israeli troops out of Hebron. Investigations were conducted and it was recommended that charges of breach of trust be brought against him. Netanyahu was belligerent but

the charges were serious and threatened his position.

NEIGHBOURS

Pakistan: Pakistan got a new Prime Minister when Nawaz Sharif won the elections, defeating Benazir Bhutto. His party, the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) secured a two-thirds majority in the 217-member National Assembly. A stable government could thus be formed in the country. Both Bhutto and Imran Khan were trounced.

Sharif got down to business right away. The Parliament passed a bill on April 1, 1997 curbing the President's powers to dismiss elected governments, appoint armed forces' chiefs and dissolve Parliament. The bill made it compulsory for the President to seek the advice of the Prime Minister on matters of dissolution of the National Assembly, the appointment of provincial governors, defence chiefs and superior judges. The bill replaced the controversial provisions in the 8th Amendment adopted in 1985 which has since been used to sack four governments, including the one headed by Sharif in 1993. The government of Benazir Bhutto had also been dismissed under the same provision.

The government also announced the new economic

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

policy on March 28, 1997. In an effort to improve growth, taxes were lowered and government expenditure cut down. The deficit and inflation was sought to be brought under control.

China Chinese patriarch Deng Xiaoping died on February 19, 1997 after a prolonged illness. Jiang Zemin was the chosen heir and the transition was smooth but an era ended with Deng's death. He had come to power after Mao's death. He was the person who initiated reforms in China and gave birth to the idea of "one country, two systems"—while it would be ruled by communists, people could have private property and follow the path of capitalism. He had opened the country to foreign investment, besides loosening control in a number of areas. The country responded and growth rates increased. Under his rule, China emerged as a super-power. It dealt with the West firmly, doing business on its own terms. Frequent threats by the USA about trade sanctions were dealt with successfully.

China also prepared for the handover of Hong Kong on July 1, 1997, ending 156 years of British rule. The megapolis is one of the most densely inhabited places on earth and has seen times of great prosperity. There was trepidation as people feared whether the freedom would continue. The presence of a large number of security forces on the eve of the handover fuelled such fears.

Bangladesh: Former President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, who had been in prison for the last six years on charges of corruption, was granted bail

by the Supreme Court on January 8, 1997. He had ruled the country for nearly 9 years, from 1981 but was overthrown in a mass upsurge on December 6, 1990. He was sentenced for 10 years. Despite being in prison, he was elected from all the five Parliamentary seats in his home district in the 1991 and 1996 elections.

The government also struck an agreement with Chakma leaders in March, 1997, on the repatriation of the 80,000 tribal Chakma refugees in India. The Chakma influx had begun in May, 1986 and were accommodated on humanitarian grounds in Tripura. Their prolonged stay had given rise to several local problems and social tension had also

built up, since they were resented by locals.

Nepal: Lokendra Bahadur Chand of the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) was appointed Nepal's Prime Minister on March 10, 1997. Chand had led two failed no-confidence motions against the outgoing PM Sher Bahadur Deuba but finally succeeded. The new government pledged to fight corruption and end political stability and said that all agreements signed with India would be honoured.

Sri Lanka: The People's Alliance (PA) won a landslide victory in the local government elections held on March 22, 1997, boosting the popularity of President Chandrika Kumaratunga's government. The PA won 193 of the 238 seats

while the opposition party, the United National Party (UNP) won just 44 seats. The PA had campaigned on a platform of good governance, restoration of democracy, eradication of State terror and resolution of ethnic conflict.

Afghanistan: In September, 1996, the Taliban, a group of former Islamic seminaries, began their march on the capital, Kabul. The government, headed by President Rabbani, fled. The Taliban seized Najibullah, President of Afghanistan from 1987 to 1992 and his brother and hanged them from a concrete post. A strict code was imposed by the Taliban, including a ban on television and suppression of women. There was a backlash and the

A Silent Revolution

The world was marked by peaceful change during the first half of 1997. Governments changed, sometimes unexpectedly, and the patterns were only beginning to get discernible.

New leaders came to power in Britain, where the Labour Party took control of the legacy of Margaret Thatcher, a legacy that her own party had forgotten. The unthinkable happened in Iran as well, where the power of the Ayatollahs diminished and a moderately renamed Congo, a dictator was re-elected. A unique situation arose when the elected party was different from the President. In the change as well in Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina came the Prime Minister and in Pakistan, a landslide victory.

China prepared to take over Hong Kong in forming a counter to the US in a unipolar world. The only way to counter the growing about the eastward expansion of the NATO. China signed a joint declaration with

little longer before the countering alliance could be formed, but the world had taken its first steps. In the African States, for once, there were signs of peace. Sudan signed a peace pact with the rebels and hostilities between the Hutus and the Tutsis were not severe.

The world instead moved to trade alignments. The SAARC pushed for SAFTA and the Indian Ocean rim countries formed their association, in the face of rapid expansion by the WTO. The ASEAN increased its members and finally became the representative of all the countries in the region. The European Union pushed forward and finally became a reality. With all trade blocs finally maturing in the next few years, alignments would be more obvious, resulting in the world becoming a smaller place.



from the British. Russia sought its help world. In the post-cold war politics, this influence of the US. It was worried and wanted to counter that. Later, France. It would, of course, take a

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Taliban suffered a series of setbacks. They were driven out of Mazar-e-Sharif after fierce fighting. On May 30, 1997, they lost three more towns. Afghan opposition forces seized a key northern town and some vital provinces. Finally on June 1, 1997, hundreds of Taliban militiamen, trapped north of the Saland pass in Afghanistan, surrendered as they faced stiff resistance and had to withdraw. The efforts of the

Taliban in bringing the country under one control thus failed and the nation continued in its uncertain stage.

Myanmar: The military rulers of Myanmar had released Aung Suu Kyi in 1996 from 6 years of house arrest but could not control the movement for democracy. The 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner held meetings outside her residence in Rangoon, much to the dismay of the State Law and Order Restoration Council

(SLORC) that rules Myanmar. There were periodic crack-downs. In September, 1996, the SLORC arrested pro-democracy activists, cut Suu Kyi's telephone lines and erected barricades to prevent followers from attending her meetings. The country has been witnessing civil unrest but the movement for democracy has not slowed down in spite of government crackdown. Thousands of students and demonstrators demanded freedom,

human rights and the end to police brutalities. The country has also been witnessing hit-and-run demonstrations, causing a serious challenge to the military government.

PERU

Hostage crisis: The most dramatic story emerged from Peru where a daring raid by commandos freed the 71 hostages held hostage at the residence of the Japanese Ambassador, on April 22, 1997. All the rebels were killed. The Tupac Amaru insurgents wanted to free rebels in Peruvian jails and had calculated that holding the Japanese Ambassador would put pressure on the government. President Fujimori remained firm and had declared a state of emergency on December 28, 1996. Commandos were prepared, a tunnel dug under the residence, and the rescue operation started in the afternoon when the floor was blasted as the rebels played football.

UNITED NATIONS

New Secretary-General: Kofi Annan of Ghana, head of the UN peace-keeping operations, became the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations from January 1, 1997. Attempts made by Boutros-Boutros Ghali to serve a second term had been vetoed by the US, paving the way for Annan's selection. Having spent over 30 years in the UN, Annan is a long timer at UN. He said that he would try and redefine objectives of the UN in the post cold war period.



THE WORLD IN BRIEF

Guatemala: Central America's last and longest civil war came to a close when war-weary guerrilla leaders and the government signed an accord to end 36 years of conflict on December 29, 1996. They agreed to tackle poverty, repression and discrimination that had sparked the fighting. The peace had been promoted by the UN and its Secretary-General Boutros-Boutros Ghali attended the signing ceremony just two days before relinquishing charge. The peace had become possible with the election of Alvaro Arzu in November, 1995, who adopted a reconciliatory attitude and came out against discrimination against Mayan Indians.

South Africa: President Nelson Mandela signed the new Constitution into law on

December 10, 1996, wrapping up a period of political transformation started in 1990, when Frederik de Klerk had released Mandela, opening up the way for negotiations.

Iraq: The six-year embargo that had prevented Iraq from exporting petroleum to other countries was lifted on December 10, 1996. The UN gave Iraq the freedom to export its oil after an oil-for-food deal had been designed to alleviate the suffering if Iraq's 20 million people under six years of UN sanctions. The country could now purchase food, medicines and other humanitarian supplies in return for exporting oil.

Algeria: The oil-rich country voted for a draft Constitution which bans Islamic extremists from gaining political power in the country. Algeria has been a victim of

fundamentalist violence, killing 60,000 people during the past five years. The new Constitution bans politicians from campaigning on basis of Muslim faith, language, gender and regional issues.

Sudan: A peace treaty to end the 14-year-old civil war was signed by Sudan's Islamic government and four southern rebel groups. Under the treaty, a referendum will be held after a four-year interim period in which southerners will decide whether their large and underdeveloped region should secede or remain in Sudan.

Tibet: On the Dalai Lama's visit to the USA in April, 1997, support was extended by USA despite Chinese protests. It assured the Dalai Lama that it would persuade China to start negotiations with Tibet.

SUMMITS/ CONFERENCES

WTO meet

The inaugural ministerial meeting of the 127-member World Trade Organisation was held in Singapore from December 9 to 13, 1996. It was the first such meeting since WTO replaced the GATT in January, 1995. Among the issues discussed were:

I) Eliminating tariffs for a wide range of information technology. The US pushed for the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) which called for cutting of tariffs to zero by 2000. India initially opposed the idea but later agreed to lowering duties on 40 of the 210 items proposed.

II) Developing countries opposed the setting of labour standards and felt that WTO should not get into trade-related labour standards. Ultimately, the countries agreed to a mention of labour standards.

III) India opposed the investment proposal too, which gave foreign investors the right to establish industries and get equal treatment with domestic companies. The OECD were planning to negotiate a multilateral agreement on this. Later, the opposition subsided and a change in language was agreed upon.

IV) WTO called for transparency in government procurement. India stated that while transparency was welcome, such procurement would not be open to interna-

tional bidders.

The entry of China was also discussed but it remained uncertain as USA expressed dissatisfaction with the progress made by China in lowering tariffs and opening its markets.

SAARC

The Ninth SAARC Summit was held in Male on May 12-14, 1997. The South Asian nations agreed to India's proposals to transform the region into a free trade area by 2001. They also agreed to informal political consultations to reduce tension, combat terrorism and drug trafficking and launch a war against poverty. Trade barriers would be removed and the deadline of SAFTA was advanced by four years from its earlier agreed goal of 2005. Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral called on the countries to think beyond SAFTA and launch a South Asian Economic Community (SAEC) to galvanise regional cooperation. Objections to sub-regional cooperation group formed by India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan were set aside. Pakistan had opposed the "growth quadrangle" of these countries for specific projects.

A two-day conference of the SAARC council of ministers was held on December 19-21, 1996 in New Delhi, which was the Council's 17th session. India blamed Pakistan's non-cooperative attitude to the lack of progress made by SAARC. Traditional rivalry stood in the way of success of regional cooperation. Bangladesh and Nepal wanted sub-regional

cooperation within the group, which would help foster good faith and trust.

The environment ministers of SAARC countries met in New Delhi on April 3-4, 1997 and agreed to establish information exchange network on data and policies. They came out with a declaration to do something about toxic waste imports, bio-diversity, pollution, sustainability, and demanded that developed nations transfer more aid money for the environment.



STATISTICS

World Economic Outlook

The IMF report *World Economic Outlook* reported that economic growth quickened during 1996 and the world output is projected to grow by 4.5 per cent in 1997 and 1998, which will be the highest of the decade and higher than the average 3.8 per cent growth recorded in the last 25 years.

Population

UN figures for 1990 to 1995 showed a population growth rate worldwide of 1.48 per cent a year, which was significantly lower than 1.57 per cent projected by the previous report in 1994. The world already has 29 million fewer people than projected earlier. This could be due to the decline in fertility in every region as well as decreasing life expectancy due to war and AIDS.

Unemployment

A UN report said that nearly one billion people world-

wide were either unemployed or underemployed.

This is up from 820 million people in 1993 and 1994, and represents a crisis level not seen since the depression of the 1930s.

Child Labour

A report by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) gave the figure of child labour at 250 million, which was more than the figure of 73 million estimated earlier. The ILO included children less than 10 years old this time while earlier it counted only kids between the age of 10 to 14 years. Asia accounts for 153 million working children, Africa 80 million and Latin America 17.5 million.

A tank's cost

A report on the arms race in South Asia said that 4 million people in India can be immunised against the cost of one battle tank costing \$ 4 million while it is possible to educate 3 million children with the cost of one Mirage airplane, which costs \$ 90 million.

European Leaders Summit

The unification of Europe became a reality. On December 14-15, 1996, European leaders held a summit and called for a simpler, more user-friendly European Union and

smoothen the way for other nations to join the world's largest trade bloc. They felt that there must be some flexibility in allowing some countries to integrate faster than others. A common currency, the Euro, has already been decided upon and will be launched on January 1, 1999 but will come into use only in 2001.

Non-Aligned Meet

The 12th ministerial conference of the NAM

concluded on April 10, 1997 in New Delhi and called its 113-member States to freeze relations with Israel to respond positively to peace efforts. The meeting wanted a mechanism to respond quickly to international developments and agreed to meet annually in New York at the time of the UN General Assembly session.

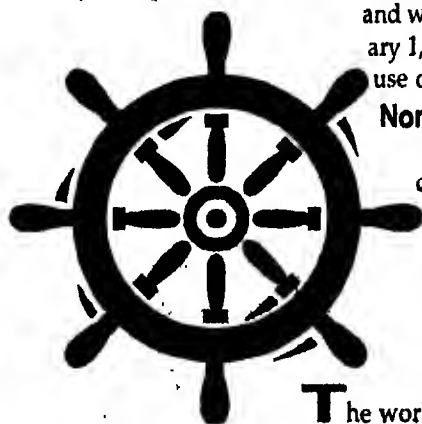
ASEAN

ASEAN decided to include Cambodia, Laos and

Myanmar in 1997, to bring the total number of members to 10. After 30 years of its birth, ASEAN becomes a strategic alliance that encompasses all of South-East Asia.

Chemical weapons convention

The international treaty banning chemical weapons came into force on April 29, 1997. Under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), each State undertook never, under any circumstances, to develop, produce, stockpile or retain chemical weapons, to transfer or use them, or engage in any military preparation to use such weapons. The treaty was signed by 87 countries. Signatories to the treaty would destroy any stockpiles of chemical weapons, even if they were abandoned in any other territory.



WORLD ECONOMY

The world economy showed signs of steady recovery. Developing nations too picked up and countries like China, South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia registered high rates of growth. The WTO helped step up world trade and the era of liberalisation being pursued by many nations increased foreign investment in many countries. Free trade areas were set up in many regions and SAARC decided to set up its free trade area by 2001.

World Trade

During 1995 and 1996, the world trade grew by 2 per cent and was expected to be over \$ 4.4 trillion. Direct foreign investment grew by 300 per cent in the last 4 years in developing countries. Such investment accounts for over 40 per cent of the net flows of capital to Asia as a whole.

A report of the WTO says that many regional trade agreements concluded since 1984 came into force during 1990-94, mainly encouraged by brighter trade prospects. The introduction of patents, dismantling of tariff structures, providing Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to partner nations, are some of the features of the WTO which have resulted in increasing world trade. Introduction of social clauses like imposition of labour standards and child labour, may harm the interests of the developing countries in years to come.

Private Investment

The World Bank report, *Global Development Finance*, revealed that private investment flows to developing countries are on the increase. Such flows jumped to \$ 285 billion, which was \$ 40 billion higher than the previous year.

In case of India, these flows have more than doubled during 1996, when net private flows touched \$ 10.7 billion, as compared to \$ 5.2 billion during 1995. Private capital has contributed to higher growth rates in most developing countries.

IOR-ARC

The Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) comprises 14 countries in Africa and Asia washed by the Indian Ocean. Ministers of these 14 countries met in Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius in March 5-7, 1997 to forge a pact to promote regional economic cooperation. The ministerial meeting endorsed a work programme. It was decided to hold a IOR trade fair in India, to create a IOR Business Centre as well as the IORNET and to have an IOR chair in Indian Ocean Studies.

OIC Summit

The extraordinary summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) was held at

Islamabad on March 23, 1997 and was attended by 50 Islamic countries to commemorate 50 years of Pakistan's independence. The declaration issued at the conference condemned India and the supposed violation of human rights in Kashmir. It also endorsed the stand of PLO and criticised Israel for scuttling the Middle East peace process.

World Food Summit

The World Food Summit was held in Rome on November 13-17, 1996. It was sponsored by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). The summit adopted a declaration and a plan of action to eradicate hunger in all countries.

G-15 Summit

The sixth summit of the Group of 15 developing countries was held in Harare on November 3-6, 1996. Leaders of the G-15 flayed the rich countries for hijacking the WTO, which was trying to enforce labour standards, environment norms and investment laws. The summit focussed on terrorism, group expansion and WTO. A revolving fund was also set up for Africa.

APEC Summit

The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) held its annual meeting on November 22, 1996. It approved a collective action plan on trade and investment and agreed to refine the criteria for admitting new members to the Pacific Rim Group.

POST COLD WAR WORLD

Former rivals come together

With the end of the cold war, the world has become a unipolar one, with US emerging as the sole superpower. To counter this, former socialist rivals Russia and China came together for closer military and economic ties. A joint communique was issued on December 28, 1996 at the end of Chinese Premier Li Peng's visit to Moscow. Russia is opposed to eastward expansion of NATO and found an appropriate ally in China, also opposed to the growing influence of USA. The two countries agreed to cut troops along their border and also to cooperate in trade. Russia looks to China as a customer of its arms and technical expertise.

On April 23, 1997, the two countries signed a declaration on a multi-polar world. President Yeltsin said it was aimed at preventing global domination by any single superpower. The pact sought to counter US clout and NATO's expansion. The signing took place during President Jiang's visit to Moscow, their fifth summit since 1991 and follow up to Yeltsin's China visit.

US-France

Relations between USA and France have swayed from mutual admiration to mutual acrimony. France resents the growing influence of USA in the post-cold war world. It looks to the unification of Europe as a counterweight to US domination. France supported

DISASTERS

Mecca

Several hundred Haj pilgrims died in a fire engulfed 70,000 tents at Mina, near Mecca. A majority of the victims were Indian pilgrims. As most bodies were charred, the exact number of deaths could not be known, though the Saudi authorities put the death toll at 343.

Iran

A major earthquake jolted a remote mountain region in Iran's eastern Khorasan province on May 10, 1997, killing nearly 2,400 people. The total damages were estimated at \$ 150 million. The earthquake levelled 11 villages and inflicted heavy damages in the towns of Qaen and Birjand. This was the third quake to hit Iran in 1997.

the second term of UN Secretary General Boutros-Boutros Ghali but USA had vetoed the move. Later, France opposed Kofi Annan's choice, who had the support of USA. Both Clinton and Chirac share a friendly relationship, but that has not been enough to fight US domination.

US-China

Relations of USA with China have gone up and down like a ping-pong ball. In recent years, there has been antagonism among the two, starting from China's large trade surplus, piracy of intellectual property and human rights violations. In 1995, USA allowed Taiwan's President Lee Teng-hui's visit, which further angered China. But the two have always desired warmer relations. The opportunity for this came in January, 1997. Two Chinese farmers in the province of Guangxi had discovered remains of an American B-24 bomber with 10 crew members that had crashed in 1944 after attacking Japanese targets. The rescue operation

brought the countries together. Beijing held a function to hand over the remains. The event was seen as an attempt to improve relations and extend cooperation, which would perhaps extend to other areas.

CHANGE OF GOVERNMENTS

UK

The Labour Party won a landslide victory, winning 419 seats out of the 659 House of Commons, with the Conservatives suffering the worst-ever defeat since 1830. Tony Blair became the country's youngest Prime Minister of the century. The Labour Party worked hard to shake off its image of being anti-business and projected itself as keeping the interests of both management and labour in view. The Tories lost after 18 years of being in power and John Major resigned to pave the way for Blair.

France

The French Socialist Party leader, Lionel Jospin, took over

as Prime Minister on June 2, 1997, replacing Alain Juppé. He had earlier been defeated by Chirac in the 1995 presidential elections. France thus had a President and Prime Minister belonging to different parties and ideologies: while Jospin heads a coalition of Socialists and Communists, Chirac is right-wing.

Congo (Zaire)

On May 29, 1997, Laurent Desire Kabila took over as head of State of Congo after a seven-month civil war. President Mobutu had to flee to Morocco. Africa's third largest nation was earlier called Congo but Mobutu had given the name of Zaire after he came to power in 1971. Kabila had fought a long war and it was in October 1996 that he faced successes

Iran

A moderate Iranian cleric, Mohammad Khatami, was elected the new President of Iran in the elections held on May 24, 1997. The landslide victory dealt a devastating blow to the hardline mullahs who have guided the Islamic revolution for 18 years.

Snippets

INDONESIA

History's Biggest Mining Scam

In 1994, a small company in Indonesia, Bre-X, announced that it had found a large gold deposit at Busang on the island of Borneo. The company eventually increased the estimated finds to 200 million ounces, sending its stock

prices soaring from a less than a dollar to \$ 200 in May, 1996. The company's founders and geologists who owned the shares sold out and made money ranging from \$ 20 to 29 million. Investors in USA and Canada bought the stock in large numbers, expecting prices to go up further. On May 4, 1997, independent investigators had declared that the Busang gold deposits were imaginary and a fraud had been committed without precedent in the history of mining anywhere in the world. Share prices plummeted, wiping out the investments of thousands of people. Geologist De Guzman, who had announced the findings initially, was killed when he jumped off a helicopter.

South Korea

Labour strike: South Korea became the first Asian tiger country to be accepted into the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). With 11th largest economy in the world, the small country had graduated from being a developing country to becoming one of the world's most prosperous ones. But the country was not celebrating. The country instead witnessed more than three weeks of strikes as South Koreans went on strike against a recently passed law that loosened the workers' right to strike and made it easier for companies to lay-off workers. The country, where lifetime employment has been the norm, just could not come to terms with the new legislation. Workers across the country

walked off their jobs and struck work. President Kim Young Sam was adamant. The strikes cost the country \$ 3.17 billion in lost production.

Former Communist States

Bulgaria: The communist bloc broke in 1989 and dictator Todor Zhikov was overthrown. The Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) was born in Bulgaria, and as the economy staggered and the nation was shaken by a seven-month strike, the Socialists fell. Inflation has soared and corruption has impoverished the country. As banks closed and the State neared bankruptcy, Bulgarians demanded that the Parliament should resign and fresh elections be held. The Socialists felt the heat, but the UDF, when it had come to power in 1991, could barely complete a year before it was thrown out. The UDF won the elections and the new Premier of Bulgaria is Ivan Kostov, a non-conformist.

Mongolia: Nachagyn Bagbandy of the People's Revolutionary Party was elected as President of Mongolia on May 19, 1997, signalling the entry of communists just four years after they lost power. He defeated O. Ochirbat of the National Democratic Party, who had won the first direct Presidential elections in 1993.

USA

After a period of depression, the US economy started looking up and was enjoying the best health in the last 25 years. Unemployment had hit

a 24-year low of 5 per cent, inflation was around 3 per cent and national confidence was as high as ever. With President Clinton firmly installed for another term, the country appeared on the road to stability, though scandals dogged the first family. This time, it was about payments made for his election by some Asians.

For many years, the tobacco industry in USA has been a subject of much criticism and many lawsuits. It admitted that much of its advertising had, indeed, been addressed to children and in June 97, agreed to a historic deal with the government. Under the agreement, tobacco companies will pay out \$ 368.5 billion over the next 25 years in compensation, drastically change their marketing programmes and submit to government regulations. The money will go towards settling lawsuits, to finance an anti-tobacco campaign, and for funding programmes that help smokers to quit. The industry will not use cartoon characters in its advertising, or advertise on billboards, stadia or the Internet. Cigarette packs will have bigger warning labels with stronger language and will be labelled "nicotine delivery device" and the government will control the nicotine. In return, the cigarette companies got immunity from future class actions. Individuals can still sue, but compensation has been limited to \$ 5 billion, to be paid from the funds.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Round Up

CURRENT



COMMITTEES

Capital Account Convertibility. Following the announcement in the Union Budget, the RBI formed a committee on Capital Account Convertibility, headed by Deputy Governor of the RBI, S S Tarapore

CONFERENCES

UN Conference on Copyrights and Patents. Organised by the UN World Intellectual Property Organisation on December 2, 1996 at Geneva, it undertook the first major revision of international copyright law in 35 years in light of sweeping changes in music recording, computers and Internet.

CII Partnership Summit. A 3-day CII Partnership Summit was held in Calcutta from January 9, 1997. The then PMs of India and UK, Deve Gowda and John Major, addressed the plenary session. The summit provided Indian industrialists an opportunity to interact with leaders from across the world. The summit was attended this year by Poland, Canada and Uganda, among others.

Global Drug Laws: The International Conference on Global Drug Laws, the first of its kind, was held in New Delhi and focussed on problems related to existing legislation and legal action.

CYBERSPACE

Cyberpets storm the world. "Tamagatchi" or a pocket-size electronic chick, took Japan and the rest of the world by storm. The virtual reality chicken comes as an animated line drawing on a small screen, but requires care and attention as a real pet. Invented by Japanese housewife Aki Maeta, the pet dies if neglected. After storming Japan, the pet made its debut in US and other markets.

India to be Web Server Nation. India would become the first developing country to become a Web server nation. The Goa-based National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) is putting its Web server on the Internet, to provide bibliographical information on Indian marine sciences for the first time from the country.

Yellow Pages on CD-ROM: Countrywide yellow pages on a single CD-ROM is now available in India. There are more than 10 million entries and the disc replaces a voluminous directory, besides offering ease of storing and search.

Nationwide Integrated Network: The Centre for Advanced Computing (C-DAC) is planning to build an integrated network of all government and private networks to form a National Information Infrastructure.

E-Mail in Indian languages: Marathi was the first Indian language to be available on the Internet, but other languages made their debut too, through a software called "Langscape".

DAYS

Desh Prem Diwas: The National Day of Patriotism will be observed on January 23 every year, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

National Science Day: February 28, 1997. It coincides with the discovery of the Raman effect on this day in 1928.

International Women's Day: March 8, 1997

World Consumer Rights Day: March 15, 1997

Martyrs' Day: March 27, 1997. The bodies of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were cremated at Hussainiwala on this day in 1931 by the British after they were hanged.

World Heritage Day: April 18, 1997

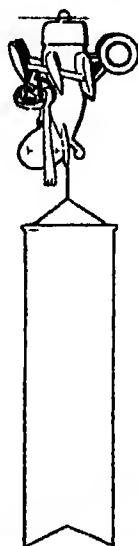
World No-Tobacco Day: May 31, 1997

DEFENCE

Sukhoi Aircraft: A deal to buy the Russian long-range combat aircraft SU-30 was approved by the Cabinet on November 14, 1996. The induction of the aircraft is expected to double the interception capability of the Indian Air Force. The first batch of the Sukhoi aircraft arrived in the country on March 16, 1997.

Dvora Attack Craft: India placed orders with Israel for the purchase of Super Dvora attack craft for the Navy. The craft would be manufactured by Israel Aircraft Ltd in cooperation with Goa Shipyard Ltd. It can travel at 48 knots and has been purpose-built for day and night coastal surveillance.

New MiG-21: A Rs 1,200



crore MiG-21 'Bis' upgrade programme was taken up, which will upgrade the plane from a second generation aircraft to a fourth generation tactical warplane. Involving a replacement of the plane's avionics and weapons systems, two planes would be upgraded in Russia and the rest in India.

Theatre Defence System: A mobile integrated theatre defence system to throw missile umbrella over Northern India against the threat of Pakistan's M-11 ballistic missiles, would be deployed by the army by 1998. It is an integra-

tion of the Russian Anti-Tactical Ballistic Missile (ATBM), the indigenous *Rajendra* and the *Akash* long range surface to air missile.

INS Ghariyal: The indigenously-built warship INS *Ghariyal* was commissioned in the Indian Navy on March 14, 1997 at Garden Reach Ship Builders and Engineers Ltd, Calcutta.

INS Prahar: Built by Goa Shipyard Ltd, the INS *Prahar*, the fastest missile boat in the world, was inducted into the Indian Navy.

Prithvi test-fired. India successfully test-fired the 250 km range Air Force variant of the *Prithvi* missile from the Interim Test Range (ITR) at Chandipore-on-sea and joined the select group of countries possessing this sophisticated technology.

EXPEDITIONS

Antarctica. The 16th Indian Scientific expedition to Antarctica started on December 12, 1996 under the aegis of the Department of Ocean Development (DOD). It installed a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the continent. India became the first nation to set up a liquid nitrogen plant at the polar station in Antarctica.

Women's Trans Himalayan Expedition: Bachendri Pal and a group of 8 women undertook a trans-Himalayan journey on February 5, 1997, from Arunachal Pradesh. The 7-month journey was through Bhutan and Everest Base Camp in Nepal, concluding at the Siachen glacier.

Tenzing's Grandson on Everest: A New Zealand expedition, including Tashi Tenzing, grandson of one of the first two men to climb Everest, reached the peak's summit on May 23, 1997.

Churning the Ocean: A team of oceanographers left Panaji on May 27, 1997 on an expedition to churn the ocean and to study the effect of the disturbance on marine organisms. The experiment, sponsored by the Department of Ocean Development (DOD), will assess the impact of ocean mining on ecology.

PLACES IN THE NEWS

Congo: The new name for Zaire Mobutu had changed the name in 1971 and with his downfall, the new government changed to its pre-1960 name.

Cyberjaya: Malaysia's city of the future near Kuala Lumpur, where every home will have Internet access and everything will be paid for through smart cards. It is being developed in collaboration with Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telecom.

East Timor: An island stretch in Indonesia, which is struggling for independence. It was in the news when two activists were awarded the Nobel Prize.

Harare: Capital of Zimbabwe, formerly Rhodesia, it is planned according to Hindu code of town planning. It was the venue of the G-15 summit. Harare's earlier name was Salisbury.

Jabalpur: The scene of a devastating earthquake that hit Madhya Pradesh on May 23,

DISCOVERIES

Longest cave: The longest cave in the Indian sub-continent, the 6381 metre 'krem ulawan' was discovered at Lumshong in the Jaintia hills of Meghalaya. It is also the deepest, with a surveyed depth of 106.8 metres.

Largest Stupa: South India's largest known stupa belonging to the 2nd-6th century BC was discovered at Nelakondapally in Khammam district of Andhra Pradesh. The 'maha-stupa' is 16 metres high and 50 metres wide and belongs to the Ikshvaku and Vishnukundin dynasties.

Ninth Drona Stupa: The ninth Drona stupa, where the last rites of Lord Buddha are believed to have been performed, was found at Bhagwanganj village in Masaurih sub-division in Patna district. Built around 6th century BC, the stupa is mentioned by Chinese scholar Hieun Tsang in his travel accounts and was

built by a Brahmin named Duna.

Harappan finds: Excavations in Dholavira in Gujarat may shed new light on the mystery of the Indus Valley Civilisation. The site was discovered in 1967 and was finally taken for excavation in 1990.

Oldest known man-made objects: The oldest known man-made objects were discovered in Ethiopia, pushing the record of toolmaking back by 200,000 years. The stone tools were made 2.5 million years ago and show a surprising degree of craftsmanship.

Sixth century artifacts: Remains of a temple, a brick wall and other artifacts were found at Ninnaur village in Madhya Pradesh. The excavation on the bank of the Narmada revealed the existence of five different dynasties: Maurya, Sunga, Gupta, Parmar and Mughal.

1997.

Kalahandi: The scene of a severe drought in Orissa.

Lima: The capital of Peru, where commandos conducted a daring raid to rescue hostages in the residence of the Japanese Ambassador. All the captors were killed.

Spain: The country launched its first ever satellite and used it for the first burial in space. The ashes of 24 people were shot into orbit with the craft.

PROJECTS

National Pilot Project: The National Pilot Project (NPP) has helped save 245 kw of energy in Jawahar Taluka in Maharashtra. The project was implemented by Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (MEDA) and administered by Department of Non-conventional Energy Sources.

Natural Gas Supply System: A Rs 47-crore natural gas supply system in Mathura refinery of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd was inaugurated on December 30, 1996. It was part of the plan to control pollution in the area surrounding Taj Mahal and consists of a 505 km loop line from Bijaipur in Madhya Pradesh to Dadri, running through Rajasthan, UP and Haryana.

UNESCO's Memory Programme: Through its Memory of the World programme, UNESCO has tried to preserve the world's heritage. The information will be available on CD-ROM, making it easy to access manuscripts, pictures, sounds and images easily.

Jammu-Udhampur Rail Line: The extension of Jammu-Udhampur rail line was taken as a national project, to encourage development of the State. The 290-km long rail line is estimated to cost Rs 2500 crore. It will require making 223 bridges and 89 km of tunneling.

New Godavari Railway Bridge: The third railway bridge across the Godavari river in Rajahmundry replaces the nearly century-old bridge. It has been built in 13 years at a cost of Rs 71 crore with help from Swiss and German specialists.

Hydel Project In Andamans: The first hydel project in the Andaman and Nicobar islands is being set up at Diglipur in North Andaman island at an estimated cost of Rs 130 crore. The 5 MW Kalpong power project will use the water resources of the river Kalpong. Gradually, the capacity would be increased to 44 MW to meet the entire demand of the Union Territory.

Uri Hydel Project: The first unit of the Uri Hydel Project on the river Jhelum was inaugurated on February 13, 1997, 15 months behind schedule. The Rs 3100-crore project confronted a series of problems, from land acquisition to abduction of engineers. It has an installed capacity of 480 MW.

Rupa Microhydel Project: The 200 KW Rupa microhydel project in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, was inaugurated on April 22, 1997.

Ten Power Projects Cleared: To ease the shortage

of power in the country, the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) approved 10 power projects in the private sector totalling a capacity of 2,240 MW, with an investment of Rs 7,000 crore.

Oolong Tea Project: A pilot project in Purulia has developed a new type of tea which has qualities of both Darjeeling and Assam varieties. The project was initiated by the West Bengal Tea Development Corporation. India became the third country after China and Taiwan to produce this type of tea.

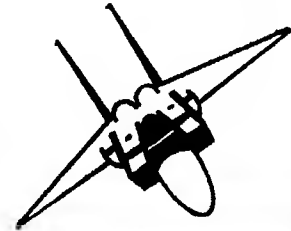
RESEARCH

Adult Sheep Cloned: British scientists created the world's first clone of an adult animal. The clone was a sheep named Dolly, who was created at Edinburgh's Roslin Institute from a single cell taken from the udder of an adult sheep, turned into an embryo and then implanted into a surrogate mother.

Fastest Supercomputer: Intel developed the world's fastest supercomputer, capable of performing 1 trillion operations a second. The supercomputer would be used to simulate nuclear weapons and to predict weather changes and natural disasters.

Param Computer: The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, upgraded its Param computer and claimed that it could attain a maximum speed of 10 gigaflops, far better than a Cray-X supercomputer.

Smallest PC: LG Electron-



India Develops

India's own Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) rolled out in Bangalore on November 18, 1996. It is the first project of its kind, and is a small, highly manoeuvrable, cost effective and multi-role aircraft. The first two prototypes are fitted with the US-made General Electric engines but later the LCA would be fitted with the Indian-made *Kaveri* engine.

The LCA is a single engine tail-less aircraft which can carry external stores upto 4000 kg. Close combat and Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missiles, conventional bombs and electronic warfare and sensor pods are some of the characteristics that make it a formidable weapon platform.

The LCA integrates modern design concepts and state-of-the-art systems especially suited for Indian tropical conditions.

ics, Singapore claimed to have developed the world's smallest PC which could be held in a hand. Weighing just 340 grams, it runs on Windows CE and could be used for wireless data communications and other ordinary functions. Cost: around \$ 500.

Solar Energy Device: A solar energy device was patented by an Indian engineer, Anand Sharan, in Canada. It has a solar tracking system and would help in providing cheap and clean energy to meet the

shortage plaguing the country.

Water from clouds: A method to tap drinking water from the clouds in the Himalayas in Nepal has been invented by Kevia Kowalchik, a camera designer from Toronto. The method uses a polyethylene mesh stretched out between wooden poles and placed in vertical arrays amid the clouds around mountain summits. The mesh produces 250 litres per day at very less cost and may alleviate water problems in the

country.

Intelligent Camera: An intelligent camera, which could differentiate between a potential lawbreaker and somebody who is not, was developed in Britain. It contains a miniaturised computer that analyses events and decides whether recorded images are routine or potentially criminal.

Effects of excess television viewing: A study sponsored by Child Care and Development Society found that television viewing for more than 2 hours a day causes abnormal behaviour in children and affects their health. It dispels the myth that television turns more intelligent and found that programmes were, on the contrary, serious distortions.

Genetic Research: An English school teacher was found to be related to the oldest complete skeleton found in Britain, the 'Cheddar Man', a 9,000-year old skeleton. The DNA sample from the teacher, Adrain Targett, was found closely related to the mitochondrial DNA in the molar teeth of the skeleton.

Research on Human Genome: India collaborated with France to take up research on the human genome project. With this agreement, India could become part of the countries conducting research on the human genome.

SPACE NEWS

Mars Probes: The Russian Mars Space Probe failed as it ran into difficulties shortly after lift-off, dashing

MISCELLANY

Longest Building: Malaysia, home to the world's tallest twin buildings, launched a plan to construct a 2.4 km long building called Gigaworld which would be the world's longest. Part of a commercial riverside project called KL Linear City, the first phase is expected to be completed by 1999.

Tallest Building: An iron tower measuring 550 metres (1815 feet) is planned in Taipei or Kaohsiung in Taiwan, which will be tallest building, standing 9 metres higher than the CN Tower in Toronto, Canada.

UNESCO Completes 50 years: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) was formed in 1946 and celebrated its 50th anniversary on November 4, 1996. Its goal is peace through education, science and culture. With 185 members, it has encouraged free flow of ideas, educational opportunity and dissemination of knowledge. Its latest programme is Management of Social Transformations (MOST), to bridge the gap between researchers and decision-makers.

Decline in Forest Cover: The Forest Survey of India (FSI) claimed that forest cover in 9 States—Gujarat, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, UP, Sikkim and Delhi—had increased. The forest cover, which was 19.52 per cent in 1981-83 went up to 21.29 per cent in 1991-93 but in the North-Eastern States, it decreased considerably. Though 269 sq km of forests were added, the loss in the North-East resulted in a net decline of forest cover of 507 sq km.

Morena Sanctuary: The Madhya Pradesh government launched a Rs 64-crore scheme aimed at developing the Palpur Kuna sanctuary of Morena as a habitat for Asiatic lions, the second lion habitat after the Gir National Park. It had generated controversy about the resettlement of 18 villages in the sanctuary area.

Assam Rifles: Raised as "Cachar Levy" by the British in 1835, the Assam Rifles celebrated its 163rd raising-day on March 24, 1997.

Fifty years of AK-47: Russia celebrated the 50th anniversary of the AK-47 assault rifle. Designed by retired Major General Mikhail Kalashnikov, some 70 million guns have been sold, a record for any single weapon.

Deep Blue: The IBM Deep Blue, which can analyse 200 million chessmoves a second, found many other uses. It could be a high speed store clerk or analyse nuclear explosions, speeding up research and scientific development.

the country's hopes of being a frontrunner in space in the next century, but NASA launched its *Pathfinder* spacecraft to Mars successfully on December 4, 1996, carrying the first-ever interplanetary rover, a six-wheeled cart that would roam the Mars surface.

Moon Ice: The US-Clementine aircraft, using radar signals to examine the moon's craters, found evidence of ice existing in a crater in the south pole of the moon. The possibility excited scientists, as it opened up new possibilities on the moon, long thought to be dry.

New Planet Discovered Astronomers announced the discovery of a Jupiter-size planet orbiting a nearby star, Rho Coronae Borealis. It is 37 million km from its star, or about quarter the distance from the sun to the earth and about 50 million light years from the earth. The discovery raised hopes that there may be more planets to be found and some may even have life.

Hale-Bopp: The comet Hale-Bopp was seen through the year and even sparked a mass suicide by a cult in the USA, and Indian astronomers claimed that the comet had been discovered by an ancient Indian astronomer, Acharya Varahamihir who had described it in his book *Brihad-sanhita* written 1,521 years ago.

Future spaceships: NASA plans to build a series of small, unpowered aircraft which will fly at upto 10 times the speed of sound

without using rockets. Known as Hyper-X, it will have scheduled flights after April, 1999. The craft would scoop oxygen from the atmosphere which would reduce the load it must carry.

Satellite Radio: A US company, WorldSpace, would launch satellite digital radio for Africa and Asia by 1998. The receiver will have a small antenna and have the capability to receive images, text and data. The technology would be incorporated in computers and audio systems as well.

Atlantis Mission: The 18th mission of the space shuttle Atlantis was launched on January 12, 1997. The mission allowed a second crew transfer with the Russian space station, Mir.

Columbia's Mission. The oldest of NASA's four space shuttles, Columbia, was launched on April 5, 1997 for another mission, to study microgravity and the behaviour of flames in space.

Black hole: US scientists, led by an Indian, Ramesh Narayan, found new evidence of the black hole, from which nothing can escape. The scientists found gas with temperatures over a trillion degrees—the hottest known in the universe—disappearing into a black hole.

INSAT-2D Launched: The indigenously-built last but one of the second generation satellites was launched from Kourou in French Guyana on June 4, 1997. It is a communication satellite, carrying 23 transponders, to enhance telecommunication and broad-

casting capability of the country.

INSAT-3 series: ISRO announced that the third generation communication satellite programme, INSAT-3, would be launched between 1999 and 2003. Five satellites would be launched under the programme.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

NDA Test: The army moved a proposal to change the syllabus for the NDA entrance test so that arts students too would get a fair chance. The proposal is part of a plan to meet the shortage of about 12,500 officers in the army.

Fifth IIM: The country's fifth Indian Institute of Management (IIM) has been started at Kozhikode in Kerala.

London School of Economics: The London School of Economics (LSE) planned to come to India and offer courses for corporates and individuals.

Flight Training School Asia's first international flight training school is to open at Kancharpura near Calcutta. The school is being opened by South East College of Air Training (SECOAT) in collaboration with the West Bengal government.

Counter Insurgency School: The Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School (CIJWS), the only one of its kind in Asia and perhaps the world, has been set up at Vairengte in Mizoram, 50 km south of Silchar, to provide training for security forces to counter insurgency

movements.

New Commission Mode for Army: Under a new mode of commission in the Indian Army, serving JCOs, NCOs and other ranks in the age group of 30-35 years with a senior school certificate qualification, will be eligible for commission after selection by the Services Selection Board (SSB).

Platoon Commanders Wing: The only institution of its kind, the Platoon Commanders Wing at Belgaum, provides training to over 1,600 platoon commanders of the Army every year.

Environment Studies Approach: An environment education centre, Parisar Asha, lays stress on natural learning and promises to bring out the best in a child. It uses the Environmental Studies Approach to Learning and replaces the rote-learning method of cramming meaningless facts.



Ashok Chakra, 1997: Lt Col Shanti Swrup Rana Commissioned in the Bihar Regiment, he was awarded the highest peacetime gallantry award for his daredevil act of bravery, courage and self-sacrifice in an operation in J&K

Balraj Sahni Award, 1996 Veteran film producers G.P Sippy, Gulshan Rai and his son Rajeev Rai have been awarded the Balraj Sahni National Award for 1995-96 for their contribution to cinema and television

Bihari Puruskar, 1996 Vijendra, the Hindi poet from Rajasthan, for his work *Ritu Ka Pehla Phool*

Bimal Roy Award, 1997: Cinematographer Dilip Gupta, who imparted visual beauty in Bimal Roy's films, is the recipient of the first Bimal Roy memorial award

B.D. Goenka Award, 1996: Editor of *Malayala Manorma* K.M. Mathew and Editor of *Economic and Political Weekly* Krishna Raj, are the recipients of the B D Goenka Award for excellence in journalism

Dadabhai Naoroji Memorial Award, 1997 Nani A. Palkhivala, for his contribution towards public education in economic affairs and constitutional law The award comprises a silver plaque and Rs 25,000

Dayawati Modi Award, 1996 Ravi Paranjape, artist and illustrator

Dhanwantri Award, 1996

Farokh Erach Udawadia, chest physician

G.D. Birla Award for Scientific Research, 1996 Ashoke Sen of the Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, Allahabad The award has been instituted by the K K Birla Foundation in 1991

G.K. Reddy Memorial Award, 1997: Chief Editor of the *Indian Express*, Shekhar Gupta and Vartha Editor-in-Chief A.B.K. Prasad, for their outstanding contribution to journalism

Hafiz Ali Khan Awards, 1996 Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma, Shobha Gurtu and Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan of Pakistan

Jnanpith Award, 1996 Bengali novelist Mahashveta Devi. The 32nd Janapith Award was given by South African President Nelson Mandela for her "outstanding contribution to the enrichment of the Indian literature"

Kalinga Prize, 1996 Indian astrophysicist Jayant V. Narlikar, with Czech astronomer Jir Grygar, for popularisation of science

Lohia Award, 1996: Neelam Mahajan Singh, for excellence in Hindi journalism for 1996 She is the first woman to receive the award, given on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the socialist leader

Moortidevi Award, 1995: Hindi writer Nirmal Verma. The award is instituted by Bharatiya Jnanpith and is given every year for a work in an Indian language that highlights human values based on Indian philosophy and culture

Film Awards

It was *Raja Hindustani* all the way at the *Filmfare Awards*. It was not only adjudged the best film but earned awards for

heart-throbs Amir Khan (best actor), Karishma Kapoor (best actress), Nadeem Shravan (best music director) and Udit Narayan (best male playback) The film had swept the popularity charts and was one of the biggest successes in an industry starved of hits Manisha Koirala's performance in *Khamoshi* won her the critics awards for best performance The film also won the critics award for best film while Kavita Krishnamurty bagged the best female singer award The film *Bandit Queen* won the best director award for Shekhar Kapur and best cinematography award for Ashok Mehta Lifetime Achievement Awards were given to Mumtaz and Dharmendra

At the *National Film Awards*, the Bengali film Buddhadeb Dasgupta's *Lal Darya* won the *Swarna Kamal* for Best Film Kamal Hassan was adjudged the best actor for his performance in *Hindustani* while Tabu got the award for best actress for *Maachis* The film *Minsara Kanavu*, dubbed as *Sapnay* in Hindi, won the awards for best music director to A R Rahman, for best choreography to Prabhu Deva and for best male and female playbacks to S P Balasubramaniam and Chitra respectively The best feature film in Urdu was adjudged to be *Sardari Begum*, with Rajeshwari Sachdev winning the award for best supporting actress and Kiran Kher getting the special jury award, along with Amol Palekar for his film *Daayera*

The *Dadasaheb Phalke Award* recipient for 1995 is Raj Kumar, the Kannada film actor, producer and singer Doordarshan's series 'Living



the Edge' won the *Panda* *ard*, also known as the Green ar The environmental series produced by the brothers hil and Niret Alva

Outstanding Parliamentarian Award, 1996 *Somnath tterjee* The Award is instituted by the Indian Parliament Group

Raja Ram Mohan Roy ards, 1996: Educationist *ttthew Panamkat* and cer *Urmila Nagar* The rds are instituted by the Raja Mohan Roy Education ndation and Institute of tional Studies

Saraswati Samman, 1996 u writer *Shamsur Rahman iq* for his literary work, *Sher-or Angez* The Award is instituted by the K K Birla ndation

Shankar Puruskar, 1996: Mohan Pande for his k, *Puratattva Prasanga* This is the first time that an archae- gist has won the award, ituted by the K K Birla ndation and awarded to outstanding work pubed in Hindi during the 10 years

nti Swarup Bhatnagar rds, 1996

For mathematical sciences *Sunder* of Institute of hematical Sciences, nnai

For physical sciences *T. manabhan* of Inter-Univer- Centre for Astronomy and ophysics, Pune

For chemical sciences *N. ndrakumar* of Central her Research Institutē Q), Chennai and *M. aswamy* of Hyderabad Unrty

For biological sciences *V. ash* of Central Food Tech- ological Research Institute

(CFTRI), Mysore, and *G Swarup* of Centre of Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad

Vachaspati Award, 1996: Sanskrit writer *Sribhaskyam Vijayasaradhi*, for his poetic work *Bharatha Bharali*

Vyas Samman, 1996 *RS Chaturvedi* for his work, *Hindi Sahitya Aur Samvedna Ka Vikas*

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

Anderson Award, 1998 *Ruskin Bond* was nominated for the Hans Christian Anderson Award 1998 by the Indian section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) He is the first author from India to have been nominated for the award, given every alternate year to a living author or illustrator of children's books

Booker Prize, 1996 *Graham Swift* for his novel, 'Last Orders'

Commonwealth Writers' Award: *Rohinton Mistry* for his novel, 'A Fine Balance'

Freedom of Pietermaritzburg Award: *Mahatma Gandhi*, who had been thrown out of a first class train compartment by a white conductor at Pietermaritzburg more than 100 years ago as only whites could travel in it The award was conferred by the South African President Nelson Mandela

Gandhi Peace Prize, 1996 *Dr Ahangamage Tudor Ariyaratne* of Sri Lanka

Goldman Environmental Prizes, 1996: *M.C. Mehta*, India, *A. Ndyakira*, Uganda,

Albena Simeonova, Bulgaria, *W.J. Ballantine*, New Zealand, *Edwin Bustillos*, Mexico, and *Maring Silva*, Brazil

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize, 1996: *Medicine Without Frontiers*, a Paris based voluntary organisation

Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding, 1994: Malaysian Prime Minister *Mahathir Bin Mohamed*

Magsaysay Awards, 1996

Reverend Toshihiro Tokami of Japan (international understanding), *John Oh Woong-Jin* of South Korea (public service), *T N Seshan* of India (government service)

Nikkei Prize: Former Finance Minister *Manmohan Singh* received the Nikkei Asia prize for his contribution to regional growth

Nobel Prizes, 1996: *Wislaw Szymborska*, Poland (literature), *Peter Doherty*, Australia and *Rolf Zinkernagel* Switzerland (medicine), *David Lee*, *Robert Richardson* and *Douglas Osheroff* USA (physics), *Harold Kroto*, UK, *Robert Curl* and *Richard Smalley*, USA (chemistry), *James Mirrlees*, UK, *William Vickrey* USA (economics), *Jose Ramos-Horta* and *Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo* East Timor (peace)

Oscar Awards *The English Patient*, adapted from Michael Ondaatje's novel, swept the 69th annual academy awards, winning nine Oscars including best picture, best director (Anthony Minghella), best supporting actress (Juliette Binoche), best original music (Gabriel Yared) and best editing (Walter Murch) The best actor award went to *Geoffrey Rush* in *Shine* and best

actress to *Frances McDormand* in *Fargo*

Pulitzer Prizes, 1997: *John Burns* of the *New York Times*, for coverage of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan for international reporting, for photography to *Associated Press*, for a photograph of Boris Yeltsin dancing at a concert while campaigning for re-election as President, for public service to *The Times Picayune* of New Orleans, for investigative reporting to *Eric Nalder*, *Deborah Nelson* and *Alex Tizon* of the *Seattle Times*, for spot news reporting to *New-day*, for coverage of the explosion of TWA flight 800, for biography to *Frank McCourt* for "Angela's Ashes A Memoir" for music to *Wynton Marsalis* for *Blood on the Fields*

Right Livelihood Award, 1996: *Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad* (KSSP), an Indian NGO Greek homoeopathist *George Vithoulkas*, and Committee of Soldiers' Mothers of Russia

Templeton Prize, 1997 Founder of the Indian spiritual movement, *Panduranga Shastri Athavale* received the 1997 Templeton Prize worth \$1.2 million for progress in religion The prize was set up in 1972 by Sir John Templeton to honour those who advance the world's understanding of religion and spirituality

World Food Prize, 1996: *Dr Henry M. Beachell* and *Dr Gurdev Singh Khush*

World Food Day Award *Dr M.S. Swaminathan*



People in News

Annan, Kofi

The new UN Secretary General is from Ghana and a long-time bureaucrat. He has spent 30 years at UN posts in many countries and was the chief of UN peacekeeping force. His main goal is to steer the UN in the face of diminishing finances.

Athavale, Pandurang Shastri

Social reformer and thinker, he won the 1996 Magsaysay Award for community leadership. He is behind the Swadhyaya (self-awareness) movement.

Blair, Anthony Charles Lynton

Popularly known as Tony Blair, the new Prime Minister of England is also the youngest in its history. Born in 1953,

he has a law degree and practices as a barrister till 1983. He became the leader of the Labour party in 1994 after the death of John Smith and in just three years, he changed the outlook of the party and led it to its victory over the Tories after 18 years.

Chaturvedi, R.S.

Recipient of the Vyas Samman for 1996, he has written 21 books and made a name in literary criticism. His book



MILESTONES



Deng Xiaoping

President Deng, who died on February 19, 1997, will be remembered as the leader who introduced economic reforms to make China as a formidable economic power. He started reconstruction of the country in 1976 from the ruins left behind by Mao. He dismantled Maoist structures and unleashed productive forces of the Chinese people. By allowing people to farm their own land, he changed the lives of more than 800 million peasants. The result was a dramatic increase in farm output. He played the balance of power game to gain maximum advantage from the US-Soviet cold war. China emerged a superpower under his rule.

Gokhale, Kamalabai

The first actress of the Indian screen who died on May 18, 1997 at the age of 97, Kamalabai played the role of Mohini in a film produced by Dadasaheb Phalke in 1913 when she was 13 years old. This is considered to be the first performance by an actress on the screen when even female roles were played by men.

Indeevar

Popular film lyricist Indeevar died on February 28, 1997 at the age of 73. He got his first break in the cinema in 1956 in *Malhar*. In a career of over four decades, he wrote over 1,000 songs in 300 films. He was the master of soulful and touching songs and received the Filmfare Award for the evergreen lyrics of *Saraswati Chandra*. *Mere desh ki Dharti* remains an all-time favourite even today.

Jayakar, Pupul

Pupul Jayakar, who passed away on March 29, 1997, was known as the grand old lady of Indian culture. She was chairperson of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and a personal friend of Nehru family. Born in 1915, she was the recipient of the Padma Bhushan and held several positions, including adviser to the Prime Minister on art and culture. She wrote several books, including a biography of Indira Gandhi, dialogues with J. Krishnamurti and 'Earth Mother'. She was instrumental in organising several festivals of India abroad.

Mitra, Sombhu

Sombhu Mitra, who passed away on May 19, 1997, was known as the grand old man of Bengali theatre. He won many laurels in his career, including the Padmabhushan in 1970 and Magsaysay in 1976. He became a towering figure of the Bengali stage in 1943 when he produced *Nabanna*, a play on the Bengal famine under the banner of Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA). In 1948, he set up his own theatre group *Bohurupee*, staging Tagore's plays and later those by Sophocles and Ibsen.

Patnaik, Biju

An adroit pilot, freedom fighter, industrialist and a political leader, Biju Patnaik, who died on April 17, 1997, dominated the country's political life for five decades. He joined the Royal Air Force and during the freedom struggle, he undertook secret flying missions carrying Indian leaders to undisclosed destinations. He was caught in 1943 and jailed for two years. In 1948, he was the first to fly a plane carrying troops to Srinagar. Becoming Orissa's Chief Minister, Patnaik had a penchant for creating controversies. During his last tenure as Chief Minister, he often caused ripples by criticizing the judiciary or describing government employees as white elephants.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

on Hindi literature, for which he has been honoured, puts it in the context of world literature.

Devi, Mahasweta

Born in Dhaka in 1926, Mahasweta Devi is the fifth Bengali writer to receive the Jnanpith award. She has authored more than 100 books. She received the *Padamshree* and the *Sahitya Akademi* award among others.

Faruqi, Shamsur Rahman

Born in 1936, Faruqi is a noted Urdu writer, the recipient of the *Saraswati Samman*. He has been central to the development of modern Urdu literature in the early 60s, providing a fresh approach on Urdu writing called *Jadidiyat*, which took the literary world by storm and became the hallmark of modernity and change in the 70s.

Gujral, Inder Kumar

India's 12th Prime Minister, Gujral belongs to a family of Congressmen from Jhelum. Born on December 4, 1919, he followed his parents to jail when he was 10 years old. He was the President of Lahore Students Union and General Secretary of the Punjab Students Federation. Imprisoned during the Quit India movement, he later actively participated in combating tribals from Pakistan who invaded Kashmir.

The Gujrals settled in New Delhi after partition and continued with their textile business, which is now run by their sons. He has served as a diplomat in Moscow and has long

experience in foreign affairs.

Hazare, Anna

Social reformer Anna Hazare went on fast, demanding action against Maharashtra politicians, putting the Chief Minister in a tight spot. A former Army truck driver, Hazare returned to his village, Ralegan Siddhi in Ahmednagar district to transform it, using Gandhian methods. His crusade against corruption yielded results as the government decided to look into the allegations made by him.

Hingis, Martina

Martina Hingis, the 16-year old from Switzerland, became the youngest top slot in tennis history, replacing Steffi Graf in the WTA tour ratings released on March 31, 1997. At 12, she had become the youngest French Open junior champion in 1993 and the youngest Grand Slam champion in 1997. She replaced the record of Monica Seles for the youngest No. 1 title.

Kabila, Laurent-Desire

Laurent Kabila, who took over power in Zaire after ousting Mobutu, has been a rebel leader since the sixties. When left-wing Prime Minister Lubumba was murdered by Mobutu to wrest power, Kabila launched his 'Simba' rebel outfit in 1964. He carried on his war with the government without much success. Since 1996, he began to be successful in his crusade, with his forces taking over two-thirds of the country. The ailing Mobutu fled the country and Kabila declared himself as head of State.

Narlikar, Jayant

Winner of the 1996 Kalinga Award of the UNESCO, Jayant Narlikar has been active in popularisation of science. He received the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award for Physical Sciences in 1978 and was elected associate of the Royal Astronomical Society, London, in 1983. He was the first recipient of the M.P. Birla Award for astronomy in 1993. He served on many committees, including the Science Advisor to the Prime Minister.

Rana, Lt Col Shanti Swrup

Born on September 17, 1949, Lt Col Shanti Swrup Rana, who has been honoured with the *Ashok Chakra* this year, was commissioned on June 11, 1977 in the Bihar Regiment. He destroyed the well fortified hideouts of terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir and exhibited exemplary courage and bravery.

Verma, Jagdish Saran

Sworn in as the 27th Chief Justice of India, Justice Verma obtained his law degree from Allahabad University. He was enrolled as a pleader in 1955 in Rewa and as an advocate of the MP High Court in August 1959. He was appointed additional judge in the same court on September 12, 1972 and became a full-fledged judge one year later. He shot into prominence after he was appointed chairman of the commission of enquiry to probe the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

Verma, Nirmal

Winner of the Moortidevi Award, Nirmal Verma was born in Shimla in 1929. He lived in Czechoslovakia for seven years and translated several works of Czech fiction. He wrote on political and cultural concerns for the Times of India. After his return, he became a Fellow of the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies and worked on *Myth and Consciousness*. His collection of short stories, *Kauey Aur Kala Pani* won him the Sahitya Akademi Award; *Maya Darpan*, a film based on his story, was adjudged the Best Film of 1973.

Vijayasaradhi, Sribhashyam

Winner of the *Vachaspati Puruskar*, Vijayasaradhi was born on March 10, 1936 in Chegurthi village in Karimnagar district of Andhra Pradesh. His lyrical poetry has attracted wide public appreciation. His other outstanding works are *Mandakini* and *Rasakeli*.

Vijendra

Winner of the *Bihari Puruskar*, Mr Vijendra was born on January 10, 1935. He did his M.A. in English Literature and subsequently obtained the degree of Sahitya Ratan. His poems are concerned with the fast decline in moral values and problems like social inequality and casteism.



Bharat Aur Europe

This collection of essays, written by Nirmal Verma, the winner of Moortidevi Award, 1995, examines the complex interplay of tradition, history and culture in the making of Indian society. They analyse the diverse articulation of tradition and trends in the cultural arena.

Bharatha Bharati

Written by Sribhanshyam Vijayasaradhi, the winner of Vachaspati Puruskar, the book contains his poems on nationalism, socialism and on faith in human welfare.

Breaking the Silence

A book on empowerment of women, written by Anees Jung, through a series of interviews of women who have faced the world with confidence in spite of the patriarchal societies.

Cuckold

A novel by Kiran Nagarkar set in 16th century India.

Everybody Loves a Good Drought

This book is a collection of dispatches from India's poorest districts and describes the exploitation of the people. Writer P. Sainath travelled 80,000 km through 4 States and describes life in backward and the poorest districts of the country.

The God of Small Things

Written by Arundhati Roy, the book made pre-publication history for the high

royalties received from the publishers, Harper Collins. Set in Kerala in the late 60s when communism rattled the age-old caste system, it begins with the funeral of young Sophie Mol, the cousin of the novel's protagonists, Rahel and her twin brother, Estha. The narrative describes the family tensions that led to the twins' behaviour the night that Sophie died. Beneath the tragedy lies a history that comes together in a quirk of fate. The book has been acclaimed all over the world.

Godrej: A Hundred Years

Written by B.K. Karanjia, it tells the story of the family with one of the most successful and diversified industrial empire.

Himalaya

Written by Ganesh Saili, it contains an account of the famous Nalapani battle fought in the Doon Valley in 1815. The Nalapani battle is one of the foremost tales of Gurkha battle

Hindi Sahitya Aur Samvedna Ka Vikas

Written by R. S. Chaturvedi, the recipient of the Vyas Samman, the book presents Hindi literature in the context of world literature.

Jajar, Churashir Maa

These are names of the books written by Mahasweta Devi, the winner of Jnanpith Award for 1996. *Aranyer Adhnikar* and *Agnigarbha* are among her more than 25 works which have been translated into other Indian and foreign languages. Her

books reflect her concern for the downtrodden and those battered by an exploitative society.

Kashmir Diary: Psychology of Militancy

Written by General Arjun Ray, who was in charge of the anti-militancy operations in the Kashmir Valley in 1993-95, the book heralded an unprecedented example of a serving officer being allowed to write about a current conflict.

Love and Longing in Bombay

A collection of stories by Vikram Chandra, one of the major Indian writers in English.

Nice Guys Finish Second

Written by former civil servant B K. Nehru, the memoirs present the account of the last 50 years and offer insights into the personalities who shaped India's history.

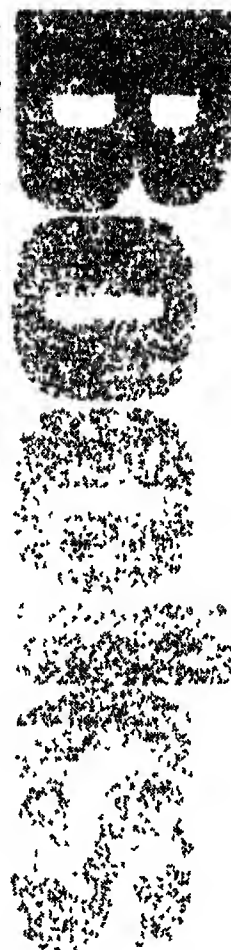
Ritu Ka Pehla Phool

A collection of poems by Vijendra, the winner of the Bihari Puruskar, the book reveals his vision of contemporary situation and explores cultural and other problems in modern life.

Sher-e-Shor Angez

Written by Shamsur Rahman Faruqi, the Saraswati Samman winner for 1996, *Sher-e-Shor Angez* (passionate poetry) is a major work by the author in which he has tried to establish Indo-Muslim poetic and literary theory. His

A LOOK AT LAST 12 MONTHS



SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

work has shown that the roots and origin of the Urdu literary thought are indigenous and are truly Indian in essence and substance.

Snakes & Ladders: A View of Modern India

A collection of essays on modern India by Gita Mehta.

Surrender at Dacca

Written by Lt. General J.F.R. Jacob, describes the events leading to surrender of the Pakistani Army in Dhaka in 1971. He has given the professional aspects and the operational details of the war.

Surviving Men

It's Shobha De's "smart woman's guide to staying on top". It reflects on shifting gender relationships in India. Women are getting more advanced and aware today, than men, it says.

A Tryst With Destiny

Stanley Wolpert's biography of Jawaharlal Nehru alleges homosexual encounters and a flight with Edwina Mountbatten. It has provoked a controversy and contains objectionable passages.

War Minus the Shooting

Written by Mike Marqusee, it is an account of the World Cup but goes beyond cricket and looks at issues thrown up the tournament and its effects on the people and politics in South Asia.

Abbreviations

ACAS: Airborne Collision Avoidance System

CAG: Comptroller and Auditor General of India

DTH: Direct to Home

ESMA: Essential Services Maintenance Act

FEMA: Foreign Exchange Management Act

GMPS: Global Mobile

Personal Communications System

IBEF: India Brand Equity Fund

ISD: International Subscriber Dialling

IMDT: Illegal Migrants Determination by Tribunal Act, 1983

IORARC: Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation

LOKC: Line of Actual Control

MIBOR: Mumbai Inter-Bank Offered Rate

MLA: Money Laundering Act

MMDS: Multi Channel Microwave Distribution System

NABARD: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

NBFC: Non-banking Finance Company

NSG: National Security Guard

NII: National Information Infrastructure

OIC: Organisation of Islamic Conference

OSCE: Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

SIA: Singapore Airlines

SIT: Special Investigating Team

TDFS: Targeted Public Distribution System

TMC: Tamil Maanila Congress

VDS: Voluntary Disclosure Scheme

WEF: World Economic Forum

WLL: Wireless in Local Loop

WMA: Ways and Means Advances

TRANSITION

Slobodan Milosevic: President of Serbia (second term)

Schironda: President of Bangladesh

Shinzo Abe: Prime Minister of Japan (second term)

President

Petar Stoyanov: Bulgaria's new President

Demetrius Kallias: President of Cyprus (2nd)

Patricio Aylwin: President of Ecuador

Olafur Ragnar Grimason: President of Iceland

Mohammad Yousaf: President of Iran

Sanjivan: President of Namibia

Bill Clinton: President of USA (second term)

Abdel Salam Adalat: Prime Minister of Arab Egypt

Shree Narayan: Prime Minister of Bangladesh

David Black: Prime Minister of England

Lionel Jospin: Prime Minister of France

Indira Kumar: Prime Minister of India

E.B. Choudhury: Prime Minister of Nepal

Haraldur Jorgensen: Prime Minister of Norway

Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif: Prime Minister of Pakistan

Koh Kee: Prime Minister of South Korea

Necmettin Erbakan: Prime Minister of Turkey

MILESTONES

Bill Gates: Chairman of Microsoft, who was in India on a business tour in March, 1997

Borge Odenat: The first person to walk across the America

David Hor: Taiwanese-born AIDS researcher who was named TIME's Man of the Year

Gabriela Sabatini: Argentina's ace tennis player, the "queen of hearts" who has promoted two brands of perfume after her retirement from tennis

Elrick Tiger Woods: The 21 years old golfer who became the first black to win a major professional championship. He became the youngest man to win the Augusta Master

Law Wilson: The embryologist at the Royal Infirmary in Scotland who is the laboratory father of the cloned sheep, Dolly

Jeannette Calmont: The French woman who is the oldest person in the world and lives in the Guinness Book of World Records. She celebrated her 123rd birthday on February 21, 1997

Linda Flock: The pilot who circumnavigated the world and increased the doomed flight of Amelia Earhart in an identical Lockheed Electra plane

Martina Hingis: The 16 year old Swiss player, who became the youngest number one in tennis history

Mohammed and Gopree: Canada's first pair of boxer pilots. Mohammed won the Silver Hugo Award for Best Actor in the Chicago International Film Festival for his role in the Canadian production

Ursula Hall: A woman, the first candidate of the FBI who came in the election for the American presidency in the 1992 American Presidential election

Wendy Lewis: An American composer who performed at the 1996 Zehn Festival. He co-composed the ceremonial music at the Olympic Games in Atlanta

Round Up



ATHLETICS

Boston Marathon

Lameck Aguta won the 101st Boston marathon, becoming the fifth Kenyan in seven years to win the world's oldest marathon. In the women's section, Fatuma Roba emerged victorious, beating South Africa's Elana Meyer.

Rath Indian Open Marathon

Two-time winner Keshav Singh of the army won the men's title, while Satya Bhama won the women's crown in the 15th Rath Open Marathon at New Delhi.

BADMINTON

Asia Cup

Indonesia defeated Malaysia 3-0 to win the top prize in the \$ 150,000 Asia Cup mens' badminton championship played at Jakarta.

Indian Open Grand Prix

Heryanto Arbi of Indonesia beat India's P. Gopi Chand to win the men's singles title at New Delhi. Earlier, Gopi Chand had become the first Indian badminton player to enter the final of a Grand Prix event in a decade by beating South Korea's Kim Hyong Joon.

In the women's singles, Cindano Hartono of Indone-

sia won the title, beating Soon Deuk Lee of South Korea.

World Championship

Peter Rasmussen won the men's singles title at the World Championship in the longest final in the tournament's history

China ended up with four of the six world titles. Ye Zhaoying retained the women's singles title. The team of Liu Yong and Ge Fei won the mixed doubles title. Gu Jun and Ge Fei won the women's double title

The men's doubles title was won by Indonesia.

BASKETBALL

National Championship

Tamil Nadu lifted the Todd Memorial Cup de-throning Punjab 52-50 in the final of the 47th Senior National Basketball Championships held at Calcutta. Punjab had won the title seven times.



In the women's final, Railways beat Bengal 92-31 to win the Basalat Jha Trophy for the ninth year in a row.

BILLIARDS

Rockland World League Championship

England's Roxtan Chapman beat the world number three Peter Gilchrist 6-5 to win the Rockland World Bil-

liards League Championship held at New Delhi.

BOXING

National Boxing Championship

Olympian T.B. Thapa and youngster N G. Dingo Singh

claimed gold medals in their respective weight categories, as Services retained the team title of the National Boxing Championship at Calcutta.

World Heavyweight Championship

Evander Holyfield regained the World Heavyweight Championship by beating Gary Bell at Las Vegas



CHESS

Deep Blue beats Kasparov

The supercomputer IBM Deep Blue defeated chess champion Garry Kasparov after 45 moves in the game played in New York. It was the second time in history that a computer program had beaten a world champion in classical chess format, the first time being in February 96 when the computer had won the opening game against Kasparov in Philadelphia. In the six-game match, the 34-year-old Russian and the computer split the first two games, then drew games 3, 4 and 5.

National Chess Championship

National junior champion Abhijit Kunte was crowned the national champion in the National A Chess Championship

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

played at Bhilai. Kunte was declared the winner on superior tie-break score.

National Women Championship

Anupama Gokhale beat S. Vijayalaxmi to regain the national crown in the National Women 'A' Chess Championship held at Calcutta.

CRICKET

Independence Cup

Sri Lanka beat Pakistan in the final match of the Independence Cup played at Calcutta. Aravinda de Silva was named man of the match, while Jayasurya bagged the man of the series award.

Cable and Wireless Series

West Indies opener Chanderpaul scored an unbeaten 109 in the Cable and Wireless series resulting in a 10-wicket win in the fourth and final one-day match played at Bridgetown. West Indies won the series 3-1.

Deodhar Trophy

East Zone won the Deodhar Trophy with a 35-run victory over the Central Zone in their last encounter in the five-team competition, played at New Delhi.

National Women's Cricket Title

Air-India humbled title holders Indian Railways by 10 wickets to win the National Women's Cricket title, played at Calcutta. This was the first time in 10 years that

the Railway women lost their title.

Ranji Trophy

Mumbai won the national championships in the Ranji Trophy for the 33rd time in their 37th appearance in the final when they defeated Delhi by virtue of their 71-run first-innings lead in the first-ever day-night final played at Gwalior

Singer Trophy

Pakistan lifted the three-nation Singer Champions Trophy played at Sharjah

Singer-Akai Tournament

Sri Lanka outplayed Pakistan to win the triangular Singer-Akai tournament played at Sharjah.

SAARC Trophy

Pakistan 'A' won the third SAARC cricket tournament beating holders India 'A' by virtue of better run-rate in the final at the Dhaka Stadium, after the match was abandoned due to rains

Vizzy Trophy

North Zone won the Vizzy Trophy against defending champions West Zone by virtue of their first innings lead, in the match played at New Delhi

Wisden's five cricketers of the year

Indian captain Sachin Tendulkar was named among Wisden's five cricketers of the year. The others who entered the Hall of Fame are: Sanath Jayasurya of Sri Lanka, Saeed Anwar and Mushtaq Ahmed of Pakistan and Phil Simmons of West Indies.

FOOTBALL

National Soccer League Title

Jagatjit Cotton Textile Mills (JCT) from Phagwara beat Dempo to score a thumping 4-1 victory to win the Philips National League Title played at Margao.

Nehru International Football

Iraq defeated Uzbekistan 3-1 to claim the 12th Eider Nehru International Football Series played at Kochi. The star of the match was ace Iraqi striker Laith Hussain Shihab.

Santosh Trophy

Raman Vijayan scored a golden goal after 106 minutes of goalless play against Goa to give his adopted State its 27th title, in the final of the Bharat Petroleum Santosh Trophy played at Jabalpur.

FIFA World Player

Brazilian star Ronaldo was crowned FIFA world player of the year. He received double the points of his nearest rival, last year's winner George Weah of A.C. Milan, in a poll of more than 100 international soccer coaches

GAMES

National Games

President S D. Sharma declared open the fourth National Games at the Shree Kanteerava stadium at Bangalore on May 31, 1997. The Games flame was lit by five-time national marathon champion D.Y. Birada and oath-taking on behalf of participants by weightlifter Satish Rai. The march past by 26 participating

contingents formed a major part of the formal section of the opening ceremony. The mascot of the games was Nandu the bull.

East Asian Games

With 5 weightlifting records and 62 gold medals, China was the undisputed leader in the East Asian games. Japan won 47 gold medals. Taiwan won its first basketball gold, beating South Korea 71-70. South Korea won the football gold but failed to overtake Japan for the second position.

GOLF

Indian Open Golf Championship

Edward Fryatt won the Classic Indian Open Golf Championship, played at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club. He claimed a \$ 50,000 cheque as well as the top slot on the Asian Tour Order of Merit.

US Master Golf

American Tiger Woods created history by becoming the first black to win a major professional gold championship. Woods finished with a record-setting victory with the lowest score ever shot in the US Master Golf. He was the youngest by two years ever to win the Masters.

HOCKEY

Beighton Cup

Punjab Police regained the Beighton Cup played at Calcutta, after three decades, beating holders Border Security Force via the tie-breaker.



International Invitation Hockey

India beat South Africa in the four-nation International Invitation Hockey Tournament played at Chennai.

Nehru Hockey Tournament

Border Security Force beat Punjab Police to win the 33rd Nehru Hockey Tournament played at New Delhi

Rangaswamy Cup

Indian Railways triumphed in the National Hockey championship played at Bangalore by beating Tamil Nadu. Railways have dominated the national scene since their maiden triumph in 1957 and claimed the Rangaswamy cup for the 20th time

Shivaji Tournament

Border Security Force (BSF), Jalandhar beat the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) 6-5 via tie-breaker to win the 3rd Shivaji Hockey Tournament played at New Delhi.

Five-Nation Hockey Tournament

European champions Germany ended the winning run of Olympic champions Holland by beating them 3-1 in the final of the five-nation hockey tournament held to celebrate Pakistan's golden jubilee

OLYMPICS

Mascots for the 2000 Sydney games

The Mascot for the 2000 Sydney Olympics were unveiled in Sydney. They are a kookaburra named Olly, a platypus named Syd and an

echidna named Millie.

SHOOTING

South Asian Shooting Championship

Jaspal Rana bagged the gold in the standard pistol (25-metre) event, tallying 584 points and beating the record of 561 of D. Singh in the South Asian Shooting Championship held at New Delhi. India also won the team title in this event

SNOKER

National Championship

Sonic Multani of Gujarat beat Rafat Habib of Tamil Nadu 7-2 in the 63rd National Snooker Championship final played at Mumbai.



World Snooker Championship

Ken Doherty won the World Snooker Championship played at Sheffield, ending the five-year reign of Stephen Hendry. Doherty became the first player from the Republic of Ireland to win the title.

TABLE TENNIS

Sudirman Cup

India finished 19th in the Sudirman Cup championships. The first place was held by China, the second by South Korea and the third was shared by Indonesia and Denmark.

World championships

Jan-Ove Waldner beat Vladimir Samsonov to win the men's singles



title at the table tennis World Championships held in Manchester.

The Chinese dominated the championships Deng Yaping added the women's singles, and doubles title with Yang Ying, to add to her record of big titles. Kong Linghui and Liu Guoliang won the men's doubles crown to add to their Olympic glory in Atlanta.

TENNIS

Australian Open

Martina Hingis claimed her first Grand Slam championship, becoming the youngest winner of a major title in 110 years by beating Mary Pierce in the Australian Open played at Melbourne. The 16-year old Hingis fulfilled a lifetime of training and expectations by beating the 1995 champion.

Pete Sampras won the Australian Open by beating Spain's Carlos Moya.

Davis Cup

Mahesh Bhupathi was defeated by Jiri Novak to carry the Czech Republic into the world group quarter finals in the Davis Cup played at Pribram in the Czech Republic. Petr Korda beat Leander Paes, demolishing the 2-1 lead that India had managed.

Gold Flake Open

Mikael Tillstrom of Sweden clinched the Gold Flake Open title played at Chennai, beating Alex Radulescu of Germany.

India's Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes won the doubles crown.

Hopman Cup

Justin Gimelstob and Chanda Rubin carry the US on their first victory in the Hopman Cup mixed teams event today when they beat South Africa 2-1 in the final played at Perth.

Italian Open

Mary Pierce of France beat Conchita Martinez in straight sets to win the women's title. Alex Corretja beat Marcelo Rios to win the men's title.

Japan Open

Richard Krajicek, the 1996 Wimbledon champion, won the Japan Open at Tokyo, beating Lionel Roux. He won \$ 154,000 for his second tournament title of the year.

World Team Cup

Albert Costa and Felix Mantilla led Spain to victory over Australia to win the \$ 19 million World Team Cup held at Dusseldorf.

WEIGHTLIFTING

National Weightlifting Championship

Services regained the Maharaja of Burdwan Shield in the men's team events at the 49th men and 12th women's National Weightlifting Championship held at Chennai. In the women's section, the overall title went to Police Sports Control Board for the third year in a row. The best lifter title was claimed by Dalbir Singh (Police) and Satish Rai (Services) while Jeevan Jothi (Police) and K. Malleswari (FCI) shared the women's honours.



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THIS MONTH YESTERDAY

August: Before and After Independence

Before Independence

The long array of events which occurred during the months of August in the pre-independent history of India include: announcement of the scheme towards establishing responsible government in India, by E.S. Montague, Secretary of State for India on August 20, 1917, elections of Indian President for the Central Legislature Assembly on August 22, 1925, looting of Kakori-bound train by revolutionaries on August 9, 1925, endorsement of Quit India Resolution by the Congress Committee at Bombay on August 8, 1942, .. birth of Indian Dominion on August 15, 1947. However, in this section we shall focus on the 'Communal Award' and 'Interim Government'.

Communal Award

The Round Table conferences, held in London in 1930 and 1931, were constraint over the issue of Muslim representation in the future legislatures. Sir Muhammad Shafi, knowing well that Muslims constituted a little over 25 per cent of the population in British India, had his arguments for getting 33-1/3 per cent representation for Muslims in the Central Assembly. In 1931 Conference, Mahatma Gandhi gave Jinnah a blank cheque to write whatever he pleased, yet no settlement could be arrived at. On August 16, 1932 Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald gave his 'Communal Award' regarding separate electorate. MacDonald observed that 'Government had to face facts as they are and must maintain this exceptional form of representation'. Protesting against the Award, Mahatma Gandhi, on August 18, announced his decision to undertake fast unto death.

Interim Government

Reacting sharply to Muslim League Council's decision to withdraw its earlier acceptance to the Cabinet Mission

Scheme, Lord Wavell wrote a personal, secret and final letter to Jinnah on August 8, 1946. This letter was to reiterate that the basis of representations was the same as the Muslim League Working Committee had accepted in June, 1946. He also informed Jinnah of his decision to invite Congress to make proposals for an Interim Government. The Congress Working Committee, in turn, authorized its President to accept the invitation of Viceroy to form the Interim Government. On August 12, 1946, the Viceroy issued a communique to this effect. On August 13, Jawahar Lal Nehru wrote a letter to Jinnah informing him about his decision to form Government and sought Jinnah's cooperation. On August 16, Muslim League observed its 'Direct Action Day'. Lord Wavell and Nehru had their preliminary conversations regarding the formation of Interim Government on August 17-18 and subsequently on August 24, Lord Wavell formally announced the resignation of care-taker Government which was appointed in June 1946.

After Independence

Months of August have been quite eventful in the post-independent history of India. These months witnessed events like: approval of Kanraj Plan by the Congress Working Committee on August 8, 1963, regular transmission in colour by Doordarshan on August 15, 1982, Doordarshan's entering multi-channels era by launching Entertainment, Sports, Business and Current Affairs and Music channels on August 15, 1993. In this section, we shall focus on the Pakistan's Infiltration of 1965 and Goa Liberation Movement of 1955.

Pakistan's Infiltration

Taking cues from China, after 1962 Indo-China war, Pakistan started

following similar politico-military tactics against India. In 1965 Pakistani infiltration activities registered a nefarious height. On August 4, 1965 armed Pakistanis in civilian clothes crossed the ceasefire line in thousands and mixed with the native population of Kashmir. August 8, 1965 was the annual festival day of Pir Dastgir Sahib, a local saint of Srinagar and Pakistani infiltrators made futile attempt to make it the day of Kashmir's deliverance from India. On August 14 some infiltrators got within a few miles of Srinagar and set fire to Batmalu. While countering Pakistani attempt to cut Srinagar-Leh road, India recaptured two important Pakistani posts overlooking Kargil. On the night of August 24-25, Indian Army crossed over to Azad Kashmir to occupy the Pakistani outposts in the Tithwal sector and on August 27-28 into Uri-Poonch area to secure Haji Pir Pass, which overlooks the route the infiltrators took to come into the State of Kashmir.

Goa Liberation

The liberation of Dadra and Nagar Haveli by local volunteers on August 2, 1954, unleashed a new life to the 'Goa Liberation Movement'. On August 12, 1955 over three lakh workers and 80,000 students of Greater Bombay abstained from work in sympathy with Goa Liberation Movement. And a day after 2000 Satyagrahi started for Goa, to free it on August 15, while the Martial Law was declared in Goa. On August 15, the Portuguese opened fire on the Indian Volunteers and killed 29 Satyagrahis besides injuring 44. Persisting with the zeal to liberate Goa, on August 19 M.R. Dandawate, PSP Leader and 100 Satyagrahi crossed into Goa and the same day Government of India announced its decision to withdraw its Consulate General from Goa.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

NATIONAL

INDIA-PAKISTAN.

Major issues identified

THE Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan held talks from June 19 to 23, 1997, in Islamabad. The two countries were able to finalise the list of pending issues between the two countries and the mechanism to deal with these. They announced an eight-point agenda for peace talks, including on the Kashmir issue. The issues identified during the secretary-level meeting were (a) Peace and security, including Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), (b) Jammu and Kashmir (c) Siachen (d) Wullar barrage project/Tulbul project (e) Sir Creek (f) terrorism and drug trafficking (g) economic and commercial cooperation and (h) promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields.

Moreover, regarding the first two issues, it was specified that these would be dealt at the foreign secretary level only. Analysts have pointed out that most of the issues identified are variations in some form or the other of the 1994 working papers.

There has been a growing belief in India that if there is any regime in Pakistan with which India could negotiate positively for a genuine breakthrough in bilateral relations, then it is the present one led by Nawaz Sharif. This is based on the perception that Pakistan has been under pressure from its traditional friends like the USA and China to have talks with India. Also, the Pakistani economy cannot afford to increase its military budget any more, which is so essential for sustaining a war-like situation with India. Also 60 per cent of the Pakistanis (as evident from a recent opinion poll) want friendlier relations with India.

The outcome of the talks in Islamabad was a product of constructive approach and clever diplomacy.

After the talks some quarters began to feel that India had accepted that India-held Kashmir was a disputed area. India's foreign secretary, Mr Salman Haider, clarified that India will not enter into any dis-

Recent Economic News

VDIS for tax evaders launched

The Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme (VDIS) 1997, which was announced by the Finance Minister P. Chidambaram in 1997-98 budget speech, will provide the "last chance" to holders of unaccounted money to come clean. The scheme will remain in operation for six months ending December 31, 1997.

The Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Mr Ravi Kant, said that the black money holders will be taxed at the current marginal tax rate of 30 per cent and 35 per cent for individuals and corporates, respectively, if they disclose their income. There would be no penalty, no surcharge and no interest for not disclosing their income in the past.

However, the scheme will not apply to a person or a corporate house against whom an order of detention has already been made under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities (COFEPSA) Act 1974.

Highlights

- Disclosed income will be taxed at the rate of 35 per cent for companies and firms and 30 per cent for individuals.
 - Disclosures will not be liable for prosecution under Income Tax Act, Wealth Tax Act, FERA or Companies Act.
 - VDIS will not apply to persons against whom an order of detention has been made.
 - The information filed by the declarant cannot be used as evidence against him in the court.
 - Tax payable under the scheme is to be paid before filing of declaration. If the tax is paid after the declaration is made, interest at the rate of 2 per cent per month for the period beginning from the date of filing the declaration has to be paid.
- Of the total resources which will accrue to the government under this scheme, 77.5 per cent have been earmarked for the State governments. The rest 22.5 per cent of the accrued resources would be used by the Central government for development of infrastructure, health and education projects throughout the country.

cussions on the legal and constitutional status of Jammu and Kashmir that acceded to India in 1947. Mr Haider said, "There is no dispute on our part of Jammu and Kashmir but there are issues relating to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)."

INDIA-USA

Extradition Treaty signed

INDIA and the United States, on June 12, 1997, signed a bilateral extradition treaty, committing their governments to "eradicate the scourge of terrorism" in all its manifestations. The treaty was signed in Washington by the US Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and visiting Minister of State for External Affairs Saleem Sherwani. The

treaty has been described as a major accomplishment and an important step in US-India law enforcement cooperation.

The new document replaces the 1931 extradition treaty between the United States and the United Kingdom, which is currently in force between the US and India. Each country will now obligate itself to extradite fugitive offenders who have been accused or convicted of offences punishable by more than one year's imprisonment. The treaty also provides procedures for either government to arrest fugitives from fleeing. Besides, there is provision for a legal basis for temporarily surrendering prisoners to stand trial for crimes against the laws of the requesting State.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

NATIONAL

INDIA-NEPAL

Prime Minister Gujral's visit to Kathmandu

INDIA and Nepal took a step towards strengthening economic cooperation by signing a bilateral power trade agreement and a memorandum of understanding on civil aviation, during the three-day visit of the Indian Prime Minister to Nepal on June 5-8, 1997.

As per the agreement any party in India or Nepal might enter into an agreement for power trade between the two countries, irrespective of the parties being governmental, semi-governmental or private enterprise. The accord provides for the parties involved to determine the terms and conditions of such agreements, including the quantum and parameters of supply, the points of delivery and the price of supply of electric power to be traded between them.

The MoU on civil aviation is expected to give a fillip to private investment in air services between the two countries. It would involve an increase in capacity from 4000 to 6000 seats per week in each direction and permission to Nepal to operate to two additional points in India—Bangalore and Lucknow—and operate upto 1200 seats per week in each direction to and from Mumbai.

The two countries also exchanged the instrument of ratification putting into force the treaty for development of the Mahakali river in West Nepal. The treaty, signed last year, and subsequently ratified by the Nepalese Parliament, covers the construction of a dam on the Mahakali river to generate upto 6400 MW of hydro power to be equally shared by both countries.

In a significant development Prime Minister I.K. Gujral also conceded the demand of Nepal for alternate 61 km transit route to Bangladesh. With immediate effect the Kakkarbitta-Phulwari-

Bangband route has been provided on experimental basis for six months.

Nepal, meanwhile, has given firm assurance to India that it would not allow its soil to be used for any subversive activities against India. Both countries also agreed to work jointly to combat terrorist menace.

DEFENCE

India opens chemical weapons for scrutiny

ON June 26, 1997, India unilaterally declared all its chemical weapons holdings and facilities and threw them open to international inspection, at the same time declaring that it will not let its compliance of the chemical weapons convention compromise national security. The defence and external affairs ministries declared that since the new global convention for collectively eliminating chemical weapons has come into force, India declared without any reservation that all such materials in stock,

production and storage facilities will be open to international expert inspection at any time.

Pakistan has also signed the convention but is yet to go public like India. India had submitted its instrument of ratification on September 3, 1996. The convention came into force on April 29, 1997 with the requisite number of members having ratified it. India taking the lead in this regard is being considered significant in view of the avowed policy to improve relations with Pakistan.

The convention had enjoined upon all State parties to declare their chemical weapons, their production and storage facilities. The signatories have to submit to a phased plan of destruction of such weapons and facilities over a period of 10 years.

The phase out schedule has four phases: Signatories will have to come up with broad plans to destroy stockpiles

Recent Economic News

RBI reduces bank rate by 1%

The Federal Reserve Board, on June 25, 1997, announced a 1-per-cent cut in the Bank rate, from 11 per cent to 10 per cent. Following this, the rates of interest on borrowing by governments (both Central and State), State finance corporations and mortgage lenders, and others, would be expected to be lowered by the decision.

The leading indicator was down to the lowest level since 1960, and bank deposits have grown dramatically, as have capital inflows and foreign exchange reserves (all three suggest that at least \$5 billion is in the form of foreign debt forgiveness). Bank lending has grown only marginally, the consequence of the 1982-83 high interest rate policy by the international system.

The policy changes announced are

- [illegible]

during the first two years. The destruction will have to start with the beginning of the third year. In the third phase itself upto 45 per cent of the stocks will have to be destroyed by the tenth year. The signatories also have the option of opting out with a 90-day notice period.

The chemical weapons convention is the first non-discriminatory treaty, which has taken shape with a view to achieving progress towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Critics have, however, pointed out that this declaration has shown an utter lack of coordination among sensitive ministries.

Since 1988, when the third United Nations Special Session on Disarmament envisaged the adoption of a chemical weapons convention as a key measure in the world disarmament agenda, in various international fora the Indian diplomats were repeatedly asserting that India did not have any chemical weapons in its arsenal. In fact, India was one of the original 130 signatories to the convention which concluded on January 14, 1993 at Paris. In this background, the current declaration might be a source of embarrassment to the ministry of external affairs.

SCANDALS

St Kitts Case: Rao, Tewari discharged

ON June 5, 1997, former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and former Minister of State K.K. Tewari were discharged in the St Kitts forgery case. However, the court said that there was enough evidence to frame charges against Chandraswami and his secretary K.N. Aggarwal alias Mamaji, for conspiring and forging some documents to harm the reputation of former Prime Minister V.P. Singh.

The evidence had been collected by the CBI and was found to be weak regarding role of Mr Rao and Mr Tewari. It raised only a slight suspicion on them and was not strong enough to justify framing of charges against them.

The CBI had chargesheeted the four and the COFEPOSA director K.L. Verma with conspiring and forging some documents to show Mr Singh's son Ajeya Singh had opened a secret account of \$ 21 million in a St Kitts bank in 1986. The forgery had been done to seek V.P. Singh's conviction. The judge said that, *prima facie*, it appeared from the statement of a witness that Chandraswami had played a key role in the conspiracy. He had got fabricated documents collected through an Indian

official in St Kitts and got them authenticated by the Indian consulate general in New York.

Fodder Scam: CBI chargesheets Laloo

ON June 23, 1997, Bihar Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav and 55 others, including senior politicians and IAS officers, were chargesheeted by the CBI in the fodder scam case. Mr Yadav and others have been chargesheeted under Section 420, 467 and 120 (b) of the IPC, relating to cheating and criminal conspiracy, and 131(b) of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The chargesheet was filed after Bihar Governor A.K. Kidwai formally permitted the CBI to prosecute the Chief Minister. In May, the Patna High Court had directed the Governor to decide whether he believed that *prima facie* the CBI had reason to prosecute the Chief Minister, for the conspiracy that had led to the State being defrauded of Rs 950 crore through withdrawals for phantom payments for supply of fodder to the Animal Husbandry Department.

Earlier, on June 21, the CBI conducted simultaneous raids on the residential premises of the brothers-in-law of Mr Laloo Yadav. Houses of the private secretary to the Chief Minister and other top officials connected with the scam were also raided.

Split in Janata Dal: Cornered from all quarters, in a last-ditch effort to save his post, Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav announced on July 5, 1997 the formation of "Rashtriya Janata Dal", thus splitting the Janata Dal for the fourth time in last ten years. Mr Yadav was unanimously elected as the president of the new outfit.

The split came two days after the polling was held for the Janata Dal president's post. The polling had been boycotted by Laloo Yadav and his supporters alleging that the voters' list was "fake and fraudulent".

While Mr Laloo Yadav might have gained some ground, though temporarily,

Recent Economic News

CMIE report: Corporate growth at 10 year low

The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) has said that corporate results for the year ended 1996-97 indicated a sharp all-round decline during the year. The performance is the worst recorded in the past 10 years.

The corporate sector has been recording a nearly 20 per cent growth per annum in nominal sales between 1987-88 and 1995-96. In recent years 1994-95 and 1995-96, the growth has averaged 20 per cent per annum.

The growth rate of sales, however, has slowed to half as the sales growth in 1996-97 was barely 10 per cent. In real terms, the growth was estimated at about seven per cent.

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the sufferer in all this has been Bihar and the people of Bihar. For the last few months Mr Yadav has been concerned with saving himself and his post more than governing the State. Under the circumstances, it was expected of him to resign to maintain the dignity of post—both as the Chief Minister and president of the Janata Dal. Of course the people are the ultimate judges and only time will tell whether the country will see more of Laloo-type politics and some dignity and semblance will be restored.

POLITICAL

Congress Elections: Kesri elected Chief

MR Sitaram Kesri was elected Congress president with a massive margin on June 12, 1997, defeating the party's leader in the Lok Sabha Sharad Pawar and Working Committee member Rajesh Pilot in the most fiercely-fought election (the first in the last 20 years). Out of 7557 votes Mr Kesri polled 6224 votes, Mr Pawar 882 votes and Mr Pilot 354 votes. Ninety-seven votes were declared invalid.

Mr Kesri, apparently, felt that his victory was an approval, by the partymen, of his decision to withdraw support to the Deve Gowda government.

MEDIA

Satellite communication to be privatised

THE government has decided to open up the satellite communications sector to the private sector.

Among the gamut of changes proposed, the government also intends to privatise INSAT and permit Indian parties to own and operate satellite systems in the country. The proposed policy has also stated that foreign broadcasters would be permitted to use the State-owned INSAT

system, besides the Indian broadcasters.

The Open Sky Policy in brief is:

- Indian parties to be permitted to own satellite systems and operate from within the country.
- Corporatisation of INSAT.
- To allow foreign channels to use INSAT.
- To permit foreign and Indian parties to own and operate uplinking stations.
- Uplinking to foreign satellites not favoured, but may be allowed on a case to case basis.
- Foreign investment limited to earth stations.

ENVIRONMENT

Eco Friendly Mining required

THE Mining Engineers Association of India has stressed on the need for induction of modern blasting technology to make mining operations in the ecologically fragile Himalayan region safe and environment-friendly.

It was also suggested that latest techniques like bottom hole initiation, non-electric initiation devices and muffling mats should be used to ensure that blasting created minimum ground vibration. For large-scale mining, belt conveyors, aerial ropeways or capsule transport can be preferred over transport by trucks that cause air pollution.

The association underlined the need for carrying out mining in a systematic and scientific manner. It was suggested that mining leases should be granted and

renewed at least for a period of 20 years or more. This would enable operators to invest more and work the mines strictly in accordance with the approved plan. Similarly, it suggested that the State Pollution Control Board should grant consensuses for a period of at least five years in place of one year.

Another suggestion made was that the top soil from the active mining area be collected and utilised for afforestation. Moreover, the government should encourage the use of remote sensing for prospecting, studying the land use pattern, monitoring afforestation programmes and preparing environment management plans and assessing environment impact.

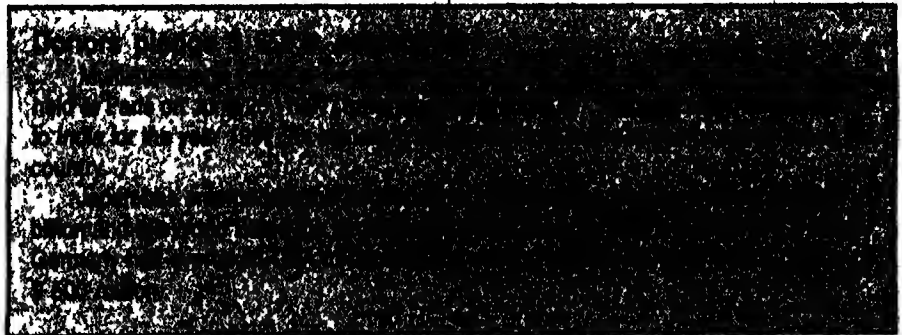
PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

Ordinance approved

ON June 5, 1997, the Union Cabinet approved an Ordinance to discourage non-serious candidates from filing their nominations in the elections to the offices of the President and the Vice-President.

By amending the relevant provisions of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952, the Ordinance provides that a Presidential candidate will have to secure support of at least 100 members of the electoral college. Besides, the candidate has to deposit Rs 15,000 as security to make his nomination valid.

The law governing the election of the President is enshrined in Articles 54 to 58 and 62 of the Constitution and the Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections Act, 1952 and the rules framed thereunder.



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HONG KONG

Back to China's fold

AT Midnight, June 30, 1997, Hong Kong—Britain's last major possession—went back to China's fold after 156 years of British rule. Britain had acquired the territory of 1071 sq. km. with a population of 6.4 million people, from China after defeating it in the opium wars.

Dignitaries from across the world, including British Prime Minister Tony Blair, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov and former British Premier Margaret Thatcher were present. Prince Charles representing the Queen, handed over the territory to President Jiang Zemin of China. A group of 509 Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops entered Hong Kong ahead of the official handover ceremony. Another 4000 PLA troops landed in the territory the next day by ships, aircraft, helicopters and armoured personnel carriers to replace British troops.

After the handover, the United Nations would have no role monitoring human or political rights in Hong Kong now.

Jiang Zemin expressed his hopes for an eventual reunification of Macau and Taiwan with China, in years to come. He has promised non-interference in Hong Kong's administration.

President Jiang and Hong Kong's new leader Tung Chee-Hwa pledged on the first day of Beijing's rule that this former British colony would remain economically powerful with autonomy and existing freedoms.

China plus Hong Kong are expected to emerge as a towering economic power. Together they will account for a Gross National Product of US \$ one trillion and their combine exports will be worth over 5 per cent of the total world exports.

In imports, the "Greater China", comprising of China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, is already the world's fourth largest importer after USA, the EU and Japan.

China by itself is now the third largest economy while Hong Kong is the eighth largest trading economy.

Chronology of events

1839-41—First "opium" war is fought following refusal of Chinese ports to accept shipments of the drugs from British-ruled India. Britain wins the war.

1841—Hong Kong island is ceded to Britain under the treaty of Nanking.

1860—Kowloon peninsula is ceded to Britain.

1898—China leases the new territories to Britain for 99 years. The deadline applies to Hong Kong also.

1941—Hong Kong is taken over by Japanese in World War II.

1945—British forces regain control, restoring civilian rule the following year.

1982—Talks begin on the future of Hong Kong. Deng Xiaoping refuses the request for continued British administration.

1984—Sino-British joint declaration signed on the future of Hong Kong. Britain agrees to handover Hong Kong to China at midnight on June 30, 1997. China pledges to grant "a high degree of autonomy" to Hong Kong except in foreign and defence policies. China also undertakes to designate Hong Kong a Special Administrative Region (SAR)

June 30, 1997: Hong Kong is handed over to China at the stroke of midnight.

(See also Special Feature on page 13)

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

US begins N-tests

ON July 3, 1997, USA began a round of controversial under-ground nuclear weapons-related tests in the Nevada desert. The experiments were designed to test weapons material without triggering the kind of nuclear chain reaction prohibited by the CTBT and NPT.

Anti-nuclear groups, however, blasted the so-called sub-critical experiment as violation of the spirit of the test ban treaty.

However, the Clinton administration said that it had complied with the terms of the pact.

The administration said that the tests, which involve massive supercomputer calculations, were needed to assess how age would affect the materials in the US nuclear arsenal and predict weapons performance without actual explosion.

The last nuclear test had been conducted by USA in 1992

Meanwhile, India said that the test proved that India's fears were correct and that the CTBT and NPT are highly discriminatory and with lots of loop holes that prevent them from helping to make the world nuclear weapon free.

Brazil to sign NPT: The Brazilian government has ended 29 years of resistance and has decided to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The move is seen as a step towards securing a seat in the UN Security Council. Brazil had earlier declined to sign the 1968 treaty claiming it discriminated against developing nations. Besides Brazil, Cuba, India, Pakistan and Israel are other countries which have not signed the treaty.

EUROPEAN UNION

Leaders agree on watered down accord in Summit meeting

EUROPEAN Union leaders concluded a treaty on June 18, 1997 that will prepare the EU for expansion into its former communist neighbours, Membership talks are expected to start within six months with a dozen applicants—Hungary, Poland, Czech republic, Cyprus being the frontrunners.

The treaty of Amsterdam, as it was referred to, is supposed to form a solid basis for the coming tasks of unifying Europe. The EU nations also agreed to take more decisions with majority votes rather than insisting on unanimity. They also agreed on loco-level military cooperation in peacekeeping or humanitarian opera-

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tions.

The main points of the treaty were.

(a) The treaty allows the EU for the first time to suspend the voting rights in the council of ministers of any country which persistently violates basic freedom

A zone of freedom, security and justice would be created within five years of the treaty's entry into force—probably by 2003. Denmark was given an opt-out from the provisions. Freedom of movement is guaranteed throughout the Union, but Britain and Ireland could maintain frontier controls

Subject to this opt-out, the contents of the Schengen convention on freedom of movement, including police cooperation, were incorporated into the treaty. Immigration, visa policy, political asylum, civilian judicial cooperation and harmonisation of divorce laws would become common EU policies.

Judicial cooperation in criminal affairs and police cooperation will remain matters for national governments, which pledge to tighten European cooperation by unanimous decisions. The 15 countries agree to give an operational role to the Europol police agency, embryo of a European police force.

(b) An employment chapter has been included in the treaty. Pilot projects could be launched on employment, but on German insistence, they would remain limited. The 'social chapter', which Britain refused to have included in the Maastricht treaty in 1991, would be integrated into the new treaty.

(c) Common strategies would be defined by a unanimous decision on issues such as relations with Russia. Member-States which do not want to be involved can use 'constructive abstention'.

Opposition by Britain and neutral States prevented pact on merging the Western European Union defence grouping into the EU. The text speaks of a 'possibility of integrating the WEU into the Union, if the European Council so decides', contrary to

the automatic time-table sought by Germany and France.

(d) It was agreed in principle that when the Union is enlarged, the big countries would give up one of their two European commissioners so that the size of the Brussels executive does not exceed 20. There would be one commissioner per member-State on the condition that an agreement was reached on modifying the weighted votes of member-States in the Council. When the number of member-States goes over 20, there will be another complete review of the EU institutions.

(e) Member-States will be able to move forward in limited areas, using EU institutions, provided a qualified majority agrees. In some areas, a unanimous decision would be required for such projects.

SUMMITS

G-7 Summit

SUMMIT leaders have worked on a draft Communiqué that would call upon China to guarantee free elections in Hong Kong and urge Middle East nations to jump start their fading peace process. The Presidents and Prime Ministers of eight nations—Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, USA—met in Denver, USA, for a three-day summit, on June 19-21, 1997, focussing attention on the three major spots: West Asia, Cambodia and Bosnia. They demanded that all sides in Balkans fulfil their promises of peace and ethnic harmony in Bosnia or face an aid cut off.

The nations also promised new trade and investment help for the poorest nations in Africa.

The gathering marked a milestone in emergence of Russia as a principal player on the world stage. However, in the end Russia ended as everything but the eighth member of the group.

The summit leaders said the global economy was in good shape but warned that there may be problems ahead. The final communiqué expressed concern over

Japanese trade surpluses and the high unemployment in continental Europe and said the US must prevent its booming economy spinning into inflation. The communiqué took policy positions on a broad array of topics—supporting a global ban on human cloning and further research on AIDS and other infectious diseases.

But it failed to achieve a breakthrough on controlling pollutants blamed for global warming—the most contentious issue at the low-key and largely scripted gathering—and could not tackle two disputes involving NATO. On NATO President Clinton was asked to accept both Slovenia and Romania as new members, in addition to Hungary, Poland and the Czech republic. Mr Clinton, however did not agree. Meanwhile, Russia said that it would review relations with NATO if the western defence alliance offered membership to former Soviet States

In the economic statement, entitled 'Confronting Global Economic and Financial Challenges, the leaders said that "we remain committed to sustaining non-inflationary growth and contributing to world prosperity". The G-7 leaders also warned against the dangers of countries competing with each other to attract financial investments by offering special tax breaks. The leaders said that the tax competition between nations could distort trade and erode the ability of individual countries to raise taxes.

Earth Summit—II

A UN Earth Summit with envoys from 170 nations came to an end on June 28, 1997, apparently disappointing environmentalists and widening the North-South divide.

The week-long conference reviewed progress since the historic Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro in 1992. It was observed that the planet's oceans, forests and atmosphere are in trouble and the population of poor people growing.

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However, the delegates agreed on few concrete remedies in such critical areas as global warming. Also, there were no agreements on foreign aid. The Summit reflected a breakdown of the goodwill that had existed during Rio. At Rio, most industrial nations including the United States had pledged to work towards doubling foreign aid to 0.7 per cent of their gross national product. Instead, development aid has actually declined since 1992.

Overall trends are supposed to be worse today than they were in 1992—annual emissions of carbon dioxide, responsible for global warming, continue to rise. Fresh water is scarce. More than 50,000 square miles of forest are still lost each year. And the number of absolute poor people living on less than \$ 1 a day has edged above 1.1 billion.

The review was based on "Agenda-21", the 200,000-word programme adopted at Rio, recommending hundreds of steps governments should take to protect forests, clean-up water, reverse atmospheric pollution, alleviate poverty and address other problems to sustainable development.

Senior diplomats blamed failure on lack of political will on the part of member-States. So great were the differences between the developed and developing nations that they could not even agree on a political statement which would have renewed commitment to the Rio principles.

The document—programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21—that finally emerged either postponed issues to later dates or just skirted them.

Political analysts expressed the view that at the time of Rio in 1992, the Cold War was just ending and industrialised powers were a little more understanding of the developing nations.

But now they are more concerned with their domestic agendas and their need for support of developing nations is becoming non-existent.

Besides once much touted peace dividends which were expected to divert money saved from reduction of arms in post Cold War era to finance development needs of the Third World proved to be a mirage as all savings were absorbed at home.

On funding, there is no commitment but only an appeal to industrialised nations to work towards achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of GDP for Official Development Assistance (ODA).

And now D-8—An Alliance of Muslim Nations

REPRESENTATIVES of eight Muslim Nations founded an economic cooperation group on June 16, 1997, to fight poverty. The nations are Turkey, Pakistan, Indonesia, Iran, Bangladesh, Egypt, Malaysia and Nigeria. They had gathered at Istanbul at Turkey's invitation for the first meeting of the "Developing Eight" or "D-8".

They have committed cooperation in several economic fields, including industrial development, research, banking and agriculture.

The next meeting will be hosted by Bangladesh in 1998.

PAKISTAN Medium Range Missile Test Fired

ON July 2, 1997, Pakistan successfully fired a medium range missile with a target range of upto 800 km. This was the third in the "Hataf" series of missile. Earlier, Pakistan had developed Hataf-1 with a range of 100 km and Hataf-2 with a range of 200 km.

The successful test firing of Hataf-3 missiles is the result of Pakistan's programmes to indigenously develop missiles. The reports about Pakistan testing the missile came in the wake of alleged development by India of its own indigenously developed *Prithvi* missiles near the Pakistani border. Hataf-3 gives Pakistan an edge over India's *Prithvi* which has a range of 200 to 250 km only.

Anti-defection Bill passed

ON July 1, 1997, Pakistan passed a stringent new law outlawing defection of politicians to other parties in Parliament, in a bid to curb political horse-trading. The new anti-defection bill was passed with an over two-third majority in the National Assembly after it was introduced in the House by Commerce Minister Mohammed Ishaq Dar.

Earlier, on June 30, the 14th constitutional amendment to incorporate the anti-defection bill was passed by the senate, the Upper House of the Pakistani Parliament. After the passage of the new bill by both the Houses of Parliament it would now go for the presidential assent to become an act.

The bill is the second major constitutional amendment brought in by the Nawaz Sharif government since it came to power in February 1997.

The most concerning aspect of the new bill is that it has been kept outside the jurisdiction of the court. Also it makes the president of a political party all powerful in determining the fate of an elected member of the party.

SRI LANKA

Army-LTTE Clashes continue

ON July 1, 1997, LTTE rebels attacked and destroyed a ship carrying refugees from rebel-held areas of Vanni and abducted its nine crew members in an apparent move to frustrate the government's efforts to transport and resettle the Tamil refugees. The ship was coming from the Kankesanthurai port in Northern Jaffna peninsula to pick up a fresh batch of refugees from Mannar. The crew included two Indonesians and seven Sri Lankans.

Earlier, the Tamil rebels had struck in a big way on June 25 when they staged a massive counter-attack on troops in the northern region. Over 300 were killed and 400 others injured on both sides. The militants also overran a supply base located

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near Periyamedu and blew up an ammunition dump. The rebels had, fifteen days earlier, also successfully cut off the lone supply route and isolated over 20,000 troops on the Army's rear lines near northern Vavuniya town.

The LTTE has been escalating its attacks on the Army in the last couple of weeks. The Army, on its part, has also been trying to close in on all the major hide-outs of rebels.

TURKEY

First Islamic government collapses

IN a bid to pacify a military angered by Islamic policies, Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan resigned on June 18, 1997. Under his strategy, Deputy Prime Minister Tansu Ciller was supposed to take over his job. Traditionally, the President designates the party leader with the highest number of seats. Defections, however, made the situation uncertain.

Since coming to office eleven months ago, Erbakan had angered Turkey's powerful generals who consider themselves the protectors of the modern, secular Turkish State and its Western-looking policies, by pushing an Islamic agenda. His Welfare Party is allied in Parliament with the True Path Party led by former Prime Minister Ms Tansu Ciller. The military had issued a sharp warning declaring that it would use force, if necessary, to crush what it felt was an Islamic threat to the secular republic. Ciller also threatened to quit unless Erbakan resigned.

However, a series of defections from Ciller's True Path Party to the Conservative Motherland Party of Mesut Yilmaz left the party weak and Ciller lost the chance of becoming the Prime Minister. Finally Mr Yilmaz was called by the President to form the government, thus keeping both the Islamists and Ciller out of power.

In the Islamic World, Turkey is a

unique case. It has a secular constitution formulated by the founder of modern Turkey, Kemal Ataturk. The Constitution, which had survived more than 50 years, came under pressure with the Islamic Welfare Party coming to power. It tried to impose Islamic values which went against the spirit of the Ataturk Constitution. This prompted the army to intervene.

In last 50 years, Turkish army has asserted its role as the defender of the Constitution. It toppled the civilian government thrice in last 50 years to defend the Constitution from the waywardness of the politicians. However, to the credit of the armed forces, no general has ever attempted to set himself as a dictator and always restored the Ataturk Constitution.

In Turkey battle lines are being drawn between the Islamic Welfare Party, with its growing popularity and secular forces backed by the armed forces. The next elections are thus going to prove crucial.

BRITAIN

Hague new leader of Conservatives

EX-WELSH Secretary, William Hague, 36, won the leadership of Britain's Conservative Party on June 19, 1997, becoming the party's youngest leader in 200 years. He won by a margin of 22 votes over left of centre Kenneth Clarke. Clarke had entered Parliament 27 years ago and was a Minister for 15 years, being 20 years senior to Hague. The first two ballots in the contest had gone to Clarke by narrow margins.

Clarke has always been sympathetic to the European monetary union while Hague is prepared to come out strongly against it, the fact that he reflects the Right leaning of the party.

IRELAND

Narrow poll win for Irish Opposition

THE Centre-right opposition of Bertie Ahern's Fianna Fail and the progres-

sive Democrats have won Ireland's election but will need the backing of independents to control a majority in Parliament.

Final results showed the combine winning a total of 81 seats in the 166 place Parliament, two short of the barest majority they needed to govern without enlisting outside support.

The election ended Prime Minister John Bruton's 30-month old centre left "rainbow coalition" which presided over an economic boom which created more than 1000 jobs a month.

On June 27, 1997, Mr Bertie Ahern took over as the Prime Minister. Immediately after becoming the Prime Minister he appointed the first female Deputy Premier in the 75-year history of Ireland.

Ahern, however, ruled out any electoral survival pact with Sinn Fein, the political wing of Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas which won one seat and will be a part of the Dublin assembly for the first time since the 1920s.

ALGERIA

Pro-govt parties win polls

PRO-GOVERNMENT parties have won the first Parliamentary elections since a Muslim insurgency began five years ago. Opposition parties, however, cried fraud.

President Liamine Zeroual's National Democratic Rally won 155 of the 380 seats while his allies, the National Liberation Front, won 64.

Gen Zeroual had sought a new mandate for his struggle to crush the insurgency that has left 60,000 dead in this petroleum-rich North African country.

The Islamic Salvation Front, the party robbed of its imminent election victory in 1992, and later banned, had called for a boycott. The 1992's election cancellation had sparked the Muslim insurgency.

Current General Knowledge

ABBREVIATIONS

ADS: Air Defence Ship

VDIS: Voluntary Disclosure of Income scheme

AWARDS

Jadasaheb Phalke Award, 1996

VETERAN thespian actor Sivaji Ganesan has been selected for the Jadasaheb Phalke Award for 1996.

M.P. Birla Memorial Award, 1997

Kasturirangan, Chairman of the Space Commission and of the Antrix Corporation and Secretary, Department of Space, has been selected for the M.P. Birla Memorial Award for 1997.

BOOKS

The Ritual Art of Teyyam and Kutadaradhane

WRITTEN by Sita K. Nambiar, it goes into the practice of men acquiring divine powers to voice prophecies which common folk hear and obey. The author says that the practice, where a person identifies with a spirit, is an annual event at some fixed venues. The custom has gained rustic status where the impersonator is supposed to lead a life of devotion and faith.

In the Dark

WRITTEN by Parvine Ghafari, this book is a memoir of the mistress of the Shah of Iran and exposes her tumultuous relationship with him during the period between his first two marriages in the 1940s. She portrays Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi as a jealous and lustful man, preoccupied with sex and lavish parties than the affairs of the country.

CONFERENCE

International Conference on Education

THE fifth International Conference on Education was held in Hamburg, Ger-

many, from July 14-18, 1997. Organised by UNESCO, it discussed ways of making life-long education as widely available as possible. The theme of the conference was "Adult Learning—A Key for the 21st century" and was held to forge a worldwide commitment to adult and continuing education.

CYBERSPACE

Indo-Pak '71 war on Internet

A new Internet web site reliving the historic 1971 Indo-Pak War has evoked strong protests in Pakistan. The web site, the first Indian military page in the Internet, gives a detailed description of the origin of the conflict, various battles, authentic versions and comments from the Indian officers who took part in the 1971 operation. Indians from all over the world are reportedly responding to the effort.

DEFENCE

India to make Air Defence Ship

INDIA is planning to manufacture its Air Defence Ship (ADS), a smaller version of an aircraft carrier. It may take up to 10 years to build and will enhance self-reliance while also achieving maximum indigenisation.

The country's first aircraft carrier INS *Vikrant* was decommissioned early this year, and the INS *Viraat* would also be non-operational for its modernisation. INS *Viraat* would come to an end of its operational life in less than 10 years. And if no replacement is made, the Navy would be left with no ship to carry warplanes.

Northern Command celebrates silver jubilee

NORTHERN Command, responsible for the defence of Siachen and Ladakh and the international borders with

China and Pakistan, celebrated its silver jubilee on June 17, 1997.

Having a total jurisdiction of 1,57,700 square km in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, the Command's territorial boundary includes international borders such as Line of Actual Control, Line of Control and actual ground level position level with both China and Pakistan.

The Command, born out of the 1971 Indo-Pak war, had as its father figure Lt Gen P.S. Bhagat, who was appointed in June, 1972.

DISCOVERY

Dholavira Excavations

THE Dholavira excavations have further illuminated Indian history with revelation of an extensive Harappan city in the Rann of Kutch.

A team of the Archaeological Survey of India conducted five field seasons of excavations at the semi-arid site of Dholavira in Kachhar, Gujarat. It is one of the five largest excavation sites in south Asia. Dholavira city was most conspicuous for its aesthetic architecture, a unique water harnessing system and its storm-water drainage system. A seven-metre deep rock-cut reservoir vertically cut through rock, with a confirmed length of 79 metres, was among the most significant finds.

Another, equally deep reservoir of fine stone masonry was also found. The reservoir skirted the cities while the citadel and baths were centrally located on raised ground. A large well and a bath were also excavated.

PERSONS

Bhattacharya, Basu

VETERAN Hindi film director Basu Bhattacharya, who died at the age of

63 on June 20, 1997, was the pioneer of cinema of significance. He began his career under Bimal Roy and came to be known as "Basu Da", earning the President's gold medal for his first film, *Teesri Kasam*. He was known to probe man-woman relationships in his movies. His latest film was *Aastha*, which was also based on social aspects

Ganesan, Sivaji

THE veteran actor Sivaji Ganesan, who is the recipient of *Dadasaheb Phalke Award*, 1996, has been in cinema since 1952. He has acted in the main role in 285 movies and received recognition for his performances. In 1966, he received the *Padma Shree* and in 1984, the *Padmabhushan*. He has acted in many patriotic films. Born as V.C. Ganesan in 1928, he was given the name Sivaji for his role as *Chhatrapati Sivaji* in one of his earliest plays. He began acting at the age of six when he joined a drama troupe. He is a living legend in Tamil cinema.

Panigrahi, Sanjukta

SANJUKTA Panigrahi, who died on June 24, 1997 at the age of 52, was acknowledged as one of the most renowned classical dancers. She was the first Oriya girl to make classical dancing her career. She had sparked off a controversy last year when she had expressed a desire to become a *devadasi* in the Jagannath temple at Puri.

Tung Chee-Hwa

THE chief of the Special Administrative Region (SAR) of Hong Kong, Tung is the man who has to convince Hong Kong that it will continue with its present economic freedom while also curtailing demonstrations and civil liberties that harm the communist system of China. A boyhood refugee from China, the 60-year-old Tung is a shipping tycoon and represents the colonial elite in the region. Though he has replaced the elected legislature with a provisional one, he insists that he wants to keep Hong Kong as open and friendly to the West as it is now.

PLACES

The Aga Khan Palace

THE Aga Khan Palace in Pune, built by the spiritual leader of the Bohra community, Imam Sultan Shah Aga Khan during the 1890s as a famine relief measure, had served as residence for the Imam and his family during their visits to Pune. The British acquired the palace during World War II under the India Security Act and it remained in their possession till 1945 during which period it was used as a prison for political prisoners. During the Quit India Movement in 1942, Gandhiji was placed under house arrest at the palace along with his personal secretary Mahadev, wife Kasturba and Sarojini Naidu. Gandhiji suffered two personal tragedies while in detention. Within a week of detention Mahadeobhai passed away. The British authorities wanted the funeral to take place outside but Gandhiji insisted on the cremation within the palace premises and himself lit the pyre. On February 22, 1944, Kasturba died after prolonged illness.

The two *samadhis* in the palace grounds still stand as reminders of those days of the freedom struggle and Gandhiji's close association with Pune.

Ulhasnagar

THE once-squalid place in Maharashtra where Hindus displaced from Pakistan had been rehabilitated, has today developed into a small township. The hard-working Sindhis have made it a major industrial and commercial centre. On the eve of the golden jubilee of India's independence, this bustling township on the outskirts of Mumbai also completes 50 years of its existence.

The over 100,000-strong Sindhi community successfully carved out a niche for itself on the industrial map of the State as well as the nation. There are now about 10,000 manufacturers of cotton and synthetic in Ulhasnagar.

Sindhudurg district

THE Central government has embarked on a plan to develop Sindhudurg dis-

trict of Maharashtra as the first tourism district in the country.

Under the plan, a water sports complex, a tourist centre and an art culture centre will be set up in the district involving an investment of about Rs 1,26 crore.

The water sports complex will come up at the ancient Dhamapur lake spread over five acres in Malvan taluka. A tourist home will be set up at Kunkeshwar in Deogad taluka as well as an art and culture centre at Pinguli. Apart from its proximity to the major tourist attraction Goa, there are 21 sandy white beaches, lush green groves of coconut and betelnut trees and forests on the higher slopes add to the scenic beauty of the district.

Sindhudurg also boasts of historical monuments dating back to the Moghul and Marathan period and those built by the Dutch.

RESEARCH

Indian scientists create the fattest rat

SCIENTISTS at the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) in Hyderabad have established a colony of world's fattest rats each weighing 1.4 kg against the normal 300 grams.

This new strain of overweight animals is being sought after by biomedical researchers to be used as "models" to develop cures for obesity and diabetes.

The NIN currently maintains some 400 fat rats and further breeding has been stopped due to lack of space in the animal house.

SPACE

Unmanned spacecraft lands on Mars

MARS Pathfinder landed on Mars on July 4, 1997 and began transmitting a signal from the surface of the red planet. It marked NASA's return to the dusty planet where the space agency last visited 21 years ago.

The 10-kilo six-wheeled rover, called Sojourner, separated from the lander and started creeping across the dusty flood plain called *Ares Vallis*.

Pathfinder's route was fine-tuned and it headed for a 100-km-by-19.3-km ellipse

in the southwest part of its original 160-km-by-97-km target. That could give Pathfinder a view of a 1,600-foot (488 metre) island carved by an ancient flood which geologists would study.

Mir collides with cargo craft

EXPERTS and the crew of the Russian space station Mir face a tough task minimising the damage from its collision with a cargo craft, an incident which had raised new doubts about the safety of Moscow's space programme.

The unmanned progress cargo craft collided with the Spektr scientific module attached to the main section of Mir on June 26, 1997, causing a partial loss of air pressure.

Russian space officials described the collision as the most serious accident in recent times but said there was no immediate danger to the US astronaut Michael Smith and Russians Vasily Tsibilyev and Alexander Lazutkin.

The Chairman of the US House of Representatives science committee urged NASA to begin a safety review of the Mir before any more US astronauts went on board for a long-term stay.

MISCELLANY

Mumbai Port Trust is 125 years old

THE Mumbai Port Trust (MPT), which transformed Mumbai into the economic and commercial capital of the country, entered its 125th year on June 26, 1997.

The Britishers had promulgated the Bombay Port Trust Act in 1873 with a board of trustees for development and administration of the Bombay Port. The trust was constituted on June 26, 1873 with Col J.A. Ballard as its first chairman.

At the first meeting of the board of trustees on July 3, 1873, a committee was constituted to consider development of docks. Thus, began an era of development of the Bombay Port.

The Bombay Port became the premier port of the country handling all types of general cargo as well as a passenger terminal.

The post independence period saw

the port successfully setting up a marine oil terminal (1955) at Butcher island (Jawahar Dweep) to feed the refineries. The development of the port contributed to the emergence of Mumbai city as India's commercial and financial centre and today the port and the city are strongly interlinked.

National Culture Fund

A unique 'National Culture Fund' has been set up with a corpus central fund of Rs 19.5 crore to promote and preserve the cultural heritage of the country.

The fund, which was created on March 29, 1997, invites donations to provide financial assistance to preserve different cultural landmarks of the country.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has identified 18 sites, including the Elephanta Caves near Mumbai, for starting the work with the fund.

A 25-member advisory council includes persons like Sitar maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar, Painter M.F. Hussain, danseuse Sonal Mansingh and corporate leaders like Ratna Tata and Suresh Neolia. It is headed by the Union Minister of Human Resource Development as the chairman.

Fingerprint identification method is 100 years old

THE fingerprint identification method completed 100 years on June 12, 1997.

It was in Calcutta that the method was first developed by the then police chief of south Bengal, Sir Edward Richard Henry and his two Bengali assistants, Azizul Haque and Hemchandra Bose.

The world's first fingerprint bureau was set up in the Writers' Building on June 12, 1897 at the instance of Sir Henry who had developed the technique taking cues from a doctor experimenting with the idea in Japan.

The technique, recognised as the unique method of identifying individuals, as also a major step towards unravelling mysterious criminal acts, has ultimately been adopted by the police ad-

ministrations world over.

Asia's first Gas Technology Institute

ASIA'S first integrated institute for training and research in the Natural Gas sector, the Gas Technology Institute of GAIL, assumed formal status on June 5, 1997. A joint project of GAIL and Danida of Denmark, the Institute specialises in HRD and R & D in the Natural Gas sector and aims to provide sustainable growth through synergistic manpower development strategies and technology for effective processing, transmission and utilisation of natural gas.

Housed in a modern campus with state-of-the art facilities, the Institute works for optimising and developing the distribution and transmission system for natural gas. Research and Technology development will be provided in core areas of energy and natural gas.

The institute is a pioneering effort for bettering the quality of service through effective utilisation of natural gas.

Call for Water Management

CAN India ever hope to meet the growing demand for water, now touching 552 trillion litres and expected to reach a massive 1052 TL in another quarter century?

This question looms large before the nation, faced with a population growth of 1.9 per cent annually corresponding agricultural demand and industrial production growth of 8-10 per cent.

Urgent action is needed for proper water management. Politics, inter-State as well as internecine differences and ignorance of ground realities have led to problems.

Technology and expertise are available but implementation has been weak. According to the Central Water Commission, of the 552 trillion litres total requirement, 460 is taken up by irrigation, 25 for domestic use, 15 for industries and 19 for energy.

But, with falling water table, massive wastage and run off, compounded by pollution, the scenario is becoming bleak.

SPORTS

BASKETBALL

European Basketball Championship

YUGOSLAVIA retained its men's title outclassing Italy 61-49 in the European Basketball championship played at Barcelona.

BOXING

World Heavyweight Title

EVANDER Holyfield retained his World Boxing Association heavyweight title when challenger Mike Tyson was disqualified after three rounds for biting the champion's ear twice. The fight was held in Las Vegas.

CRICKET

West Indies-Sri Lanka

IN the first Test played at Antigua, West Indies openers Stuart Williams and Sherwin Campbell's stand of 160 runs carried West Indies to a six-wicket victory over Sri Lanka. Set a target of 187 runs to win, West Indies looked prepared for a 10-wicket victory but lost 4 wickets for 23 runs.

The second Test at St Vincent ended in a draw. Chasing a target of 269, Sri Lanka were 233 for 8 when poor light halted play with 16 overs remaining. West Indies won the two-match series 1-0.

The Ashes

IN the six-match Ashes series, England went one up after beating Australia by 9 wickets in the first Test at Edgbaston. Chasing 118 runs to win, Mike Atherton and Alec Stewart steered England to victory. Australia had crashed when they lost 8 second innings wickets for just 123 runs.

Siyaram Cup

IN the unofficial Siyaram Cup final, Pakistan beat India by 5 wickets.

NATIONAL GAMES

KARNATAKA emerged champions in the

National Games held at Bangalore, bagging 72 gold, 45 silver and 51 bronze medals. Though Punjab finished second in the medals tally with 44 gold, 28 silvers and 40 bronze medals, Delhi with a tally of 36-45-38 were declared runners-up on the basis of points accumulation.

The IOA Cup for best sports person was awarded to Jaspal Rana for record score in the centre pistol event. Swimmers J. Abhijit and Nisha Millet won 10 gold medals each and were awarded trophies for best sportsman and best sports-woman respectively. Karnataka also won the Raja Bhalendra Singh Cup for the best team.

As many as 141 Games records were broken. Delhi's Amit Khanna took the 100 m gold, clocking 10.54 seconds, which is a National record. Maharashtra's Rachita Mistry returned to the track after more than two years to win the women's gold with 11.86 seconds in a photo finish from Tamil Nadu's V. Pandeewari.

Services runner Abhey Singh and Maharashtra's Harshada Joshi won the men's and women's marathons.

The next National Games would be held in Imphal in 1998 and the next National Winter Games would be held in Srinagar.

GOLF

PGA Western Open

TIGER woods captured his 6th title in barely 10 months as a professional, when he won the PGA Western Open by three strokes. He won the \$3,60,000 prize in the tournament held at Lemont.

HOCKEY

Champions Trophy

ALYSON Annan's goal helped Australia beat Germany 2-1 and lift their fourth straight Champions Trophy, held at Berlin.

TENNIS

French Open

IVA Majholi of Croatia beat world number one Martina Hingis 6-4, 6-2 to take the women's title at the French Open. She was playing her first grand slam tournament final, to end the 37-match unbeaten start by the 16-year-old Swiss player.

Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil beat Sergi Bruguera 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 to emerge the unlikely men's champion in French Open history. He became the first Brazilian to win a grand slam men's title as well as the first unseeded French winner since Mats Wilander in 1992.

Wimbledon

MARTINA Hingis of Switzerland defeated Jana Novotna of Czech Republic 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 to win the women's title in the Wimbledon tennis championship. The 16-year-old Swiss became the youngest winner of Wimbledon in this century. Pete Sampras of US beat Cedric Piolige of France 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 to win the men's title.

In the mixed doubles, Cyril Suk and Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia brought their team to victory, beating the Russian team.

Ramesh Krishnan, playing alongside Jeremy Bates of Britain, won the over-35 invitation doubles title.

WEIGHTLIFTING

Kunjarani Devi in top 100

INDIA'S Kunjarani Devi has been listed among the greatest weightlifters of the world. She is among the seven women listed in the top 100 lifters of the century listed in "World Weightlifting", the official publication of the international federation. She has won 18 medals in six World Championships so far. Her tally of 42 medals in the world and Asian contests is unparalleled in the annals of Indian sport.

ADMISSION ALERT

The Competition Master's Guide to Opportunities

This feature alerts our readers about forthcoming examinations and opportunities. Readers are advised to assess their own suitability and that of the institute before applying—this feature is not a recommendation of any course or institute.

Computers

PG Course in Information Technology (8 months/1 year)—Last date: August 4, 1997. Apply to: Technical Teachers Training Institute, Sector 26, Chandigarh or CMC Ltd, Shahpuri Tower, C-58 Community Centre, Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110 058 with a DD for Rs 25.

Distance Learning

Post Graduate Diploma in Business Finance (1 year)—Eligibility: Graduation. Last date: August 31, 1997. Apply to: Indian Institute of Management Technology, Govt PG College, Adampur - 125 052 Distt. Hisar (Haryana) with a DD for Rs 100.

Fashion Design

PG Diploma in Garment Business (2 years)—Apply to: Delhi College of Fashion, LGF-17 Avadh Bazar, Hotel Clarks Avadh, 8 MG Marg, Lucknow - 226 001.

Management

1. **PG Diplomas in Management, Journalism, Tourism (1 year)**—Written test: August 20, 1997. Last date: August 5, 1997. Apply to: Coordinator (ETP) HNB Garhwal University, Snnagar (Garhwal) with a DD for Rs 225.

2. **MAT**: Last date: August 15, 1997. Apply to: AIMA, Management House, 14 Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003 with a DD for Rs 325.

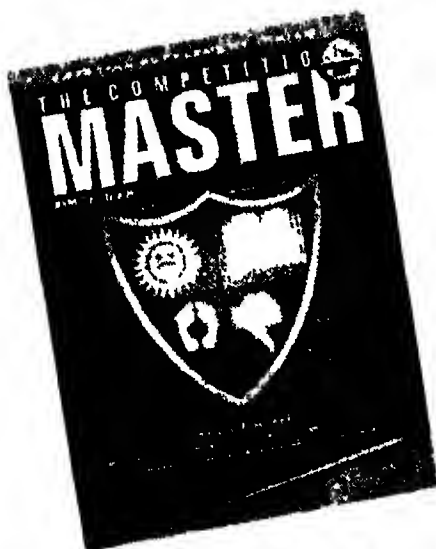
3. **BBA (3 year, full time)**—Eligibility: Class 12 or equivalent. Apply to: Indo-British Education Council, C-92 South Extension Part II, New Delhi - 110 049 with a DD for Rs 400.

4. **PG Diploma in Personnel Management**—Eligibility: Graduates with minimum 45% marks. Written test: August 14, 1997. Last date: July 22, 1997. Apply to: National Institute of Personnel Management, 45 Jhowtala Road, PB No. 10275, Calcutta - 700 019 with a DD for Rs 425.

Scholarships

Mahindra All India Talent Scholarships—Eligibility: Students belonging to lower income group with good scholastic record, who have passed SSLC or HSC or equivalent examination. Last date: August 18, 1997. Apply on the prescribed format to any centre, including: KC Mahindra Education Trust, Cecil Court, Near Regal Cinema, Mahakavi Bhushan Marg, Mumbai - 400 001.

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The Examiner's Guess Questions

Q. Who was martyr who jumped before a speeding truck carrying foreign textiles in Mumbai in 1930?

Ans. Holding aloft the tricolour, 22-year-old Hutatma Babu Genu Saaid jumped before a truck carrying foreign textiles and gave up his life to become a martyr. The Indian National Congress had organised a *satyagraha* on December 12, 1930 against foreign clothes in Kalbadevi in south Mumbai. The freedom fighters did not want the truck to proceed and tried to obstruct it but were forcibly removed.

Q. What was the name of the *maidan* where the first Congress session was held in 1885 and which became the hub of the Quit India movement in 1942?

Ans. The Gowalia Tank, which is known as the *August Kranti maidan* today. Gandhiji's call "do or die" had transformed the *maidan* to the hub of the Quit India movement in 1942.

Q. Name the prison in Pune which housed freedom fighters like Bose, Nehru and Patel?

Ans. The Yerwada prison, which is among the oldest prisons. Built in 1876, it can house 2230 prisoners at present. It has a library, gymnasium, a hospital and training centres for various trades.

Q. What are the *Kharif* support prices for 1997-98 for paddy and groundnut?

Ans. Support prices for paddy has been increased from Rs 380 to Rs 415 a quintal and groundnut from Rs 920 to Rs 980 a quintal. This is one of the highest increases in minimum support prices of crops for the *Kharif* season.

Q. What is the rate of industrial growth for 1996-97?

Ans. Industrial growth rate declined sharply in 1996-97 to 6.7 per cent com-

pared to 11.9 per cent in the previous year.

Q. What is the level of external assistance pledged by the India Development Forum this year?

Ans. The India Development Forum pledged \$ 6.7 billion in external assistance of various types to India for the current year.

Q. Name the judge constituting the one man committee to look into allegations of match-fixing in Indian cricket?

Ans. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) formed a one-man committee comprising former Chief Executive Justice Y.V. Chandrachud to look into allegations of match-fixing in Indian cricket.

Q. What is the name of the first electric train on Ludhiana-Delhi route, which was flagged off by the Prime Minister on June 28, 1997?

Ans. Swaraj Express.

Q. Who developed the finger print identification method 100 years ago?

Ans. Sir Edward Richard Henry, who was the police chief of south Bengal in 1897, along with his two Bengali assistants, Azizul Haque and Hemchandra Bose.

Q. Which division of the Indian Army celebrated its silver jubilee recently?

Ans. Northern Command.

Q. Name the person who took over administration of Hong Kong after its handover on July 1, 1997.

Ans. Tung Chee-Hwa.

Q. Name the director of *Avishkar*, who died recently.

Ans. Basu Bhattacharya.

Q. Name the virtual pet which has

become very popular in Japan and has been launched in other countries as well?

Ans. Tamagatchi.

Q. What is the name of the vehicle which was successfully deployed on Mars recently by NASA?

Ans. The Sojourner

Q. Who is the new Miss Universe?

Ans. Brook Mahealani of USA.

Q. Which are the nine high performing public sector units which are referred to as *navratnas*?

Ans. The Union Cabinet has approved an autonomy package for nine high-performing public sector units, accounting for 75 per cent of the profits of the PSUs, were given total freedom to incur capital expenditure, raise resources and enter technology/financial joint ventures. The *navratna* PSUs are: Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL), Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL), National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd (VSNL) and Indian Petrochemicals Ltd (IPCL).

Q. Which PSUs have been allowed to sell shares during the financial year 1997-98?

Ans. The Cabinet has cleared the sale of shares of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL), Gas Authority of India Ltd (GAIL), Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Container Corporation of India (Concor) during the financial year 1997-98.

Q. What is the new name for Zaire?

Ans. Congo.

Q. Where were the National Games held recently?

Ans. Bangalore.

Appointments Etc

APPOINTED, ELECTED ETC

Nashagyn Bagabandi He was sworn in as President of Mongolia

Mesut Yilmaz He has been appointed as Prime Minister of Turkey

Bertie Ahern He has been appointed as the Prime Minister of Ireland

Tung Chee-Hwa (also known as C H Tung) He became the first Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) after the handover of Hong Kong to China

R C Sharma He has been appointed as Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to replace Joginder Singh

NN Vohra He has been appointed Principal Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

R Gopalanathan He has been appointed as Chairman of the Central Board of Excise and Customs

Around Dave He has been appointed as Chief of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)

Sitaram Kesri He was elected president of the Congress party with a thumping majority

RESIGNED

C P Verma Union Minister of State for rural areas and employment

DIED

Sanjukta Panigrahi One of the most renowned classical dancers, the doyen of Odissi dance

S P Singh Noted journalist, the anchor person and executive producer of the television news programme, *Aaj Tak*

Acharya Tulsi Well known Jain Muni

Basu Bhattacharya A film-maker concerned with intricate human relationships

James Stewart US actor, who embodied values of decency and moral courage, at the age of 89

Jacques Costeau French sea explorer and marine life documentary maker

chemical weapons holdings and facilities and throws them open for international inspection

—Over 1,000 people are arrested as mob violence erupts in curfew-bound areas in Lucknow Shia Muslims defy curfew to take out a procession

30—China takes over Hong Kong after 156 years of British rule at a glittering handover ceremony

JULY

3—The US conducts its nuclear-related test, known as a "subcritical" experiment, to evaluate the safety and reliability of the country's ageing nuclear weapons, the first since the 1992 moratorium on nuclear arms

—Polling for the Janata Dal presidential elections conclude peacefully

4—The Mars Pathfinder, an unmanned spacecraft, lands on Mars and begins transmitting signals from the surface of the red planet

—Banking operations are paralysed across the country as 13 million employees go on a strike to protest against the government decision to allow setting up of local area private banks

5—A Pakistani court charges Benazir's husband, Asif Ali Zardari with ordering the killing of her brother, Murtaza Bhutto

6—Sharad Yadav is elected Janata Dal president

EVENTS

JUNE

5—Algerians vote in its first multi-party elections amid risk of bomb attacks by Islamic insurgents

6—A bomb blast in a private bus in Pathankot kills 6 people

9—The Election Commission starts the process for the 11th Presidential elections by issuing the notification which begins the filing of nominations

10—The Sukhoi fighter aircraft are inducted into the Indian Air Force

—An ambush by the underground tribal guerrillas in Agartala results in the death of 18 people, including 11 territorial army and 4 General Reserve Engineering Force (GREF) personnel

12—Over 40 persons are injured in sporadic clashes and arson in the anti-Laloo bandh in Bihar

13—At least 59 people are killed and 200 injured in a major fire in the Uphaar cinema in New Delhi

17—Bihar Governor A R Kidwai sanctions prosecution of Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav in the Rs 950 crore fodder scandal

20—Foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan begin their second round of dialogue to settle outstanding issues

23—The CBI files an interim charge sheet against Bihar Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav and his two cabinet colleagues

25—A collision with a cargo craft causes partial loss of pressure in the Russian space station Mir, but the astronauts are safe

—India and US sign an extradition treaty in a major step to combat terrorism

—Over 300 people are killed in Sri Lanka as Tamil rebels smash an army supply base and launch a major counter-offensive in the northern region

26—India unilaterally declares all its

MILESTONES

Maresh Bhupathi: The Indian tennis player who partnered Japan's Rika Hiraki to win the French Open mixed doubles title. He became the first Indian to make it to the finals of a Grand Slam event.

Steven Seagal: The action movie star, who has been declared a reincarnated Lama by Buddhist priests.

C.R. Bhanu: The absconding chairman of the CRP group of companies, who was arrested by the CBI in Hong Kong and flown to India. His company had earlier crashed, causing an estimated Rs 1200 crore loss to investors.

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Mr Narayanan to the Fore

Mr K R Narayanan is the new President of the Indian Sovereign Republic. He succeeds Dr S D Sharma. After the election results had been announced, Mr Narayanan was asked how he felt being the first "Dalit President". He replied, "I am just President." Good enough. But Mr Narayanan must bear in mind for the coming five years that the word 'just' has another meaning, too. The Latin word is an abbreviation of "justice". He has thus not only to be a 'just' President but also a Justice President: fair, balanced, objective, dispassionate, non-partisan and book-abiding. His swearing-in oath will come his way many times to be tested in constitutional crucible as the nation is passing through unsettled political times. We may call them the time of consensus but the fact is these are times of conflict which stem from one dying and decaying system and another struggling to take birth.

Mr Narayanan's election by a sweeping and staggering margin (he secured a value of 9,56,290 with a percentage of 91.4) is the highest by any candidate in a presidential election so far. This is flattering but not necessarily reassuring. The pulls and pressures of murky politics in the country being what they are. His predecessor, Dr S D Sharma, too had no political soft under-belly. Yet, he was hustled into signing an Ordinance legitimising 1703 out-of-turn house allotments to Central government employees. Dr Sharma put a black entry in his recordbook. Such occasions will be more numerous and frequent during the term of the new incumbent. How he meets these challenges which cut constitutional corners, will determine his stature and success, not the percentage and value of votes polled by him.

Though Mr Narayanan has no halo around him, his humility and modesty should stand him in good stead. His self-effacement and lack of avarice for gainful political office may enable him to see the national murky scene from a fresh perspective. It is little known that he had declined a job by the V P Singh government. He himself is on record, "That led to many things and I will consider it as a critical turning point in my life."

Mr Narayanan's record as diplomat, parliamentarian, minister, and as Vice-President of the Republic has been above board. There is an impression that he is committed to purity and ethics in public life. This in itself should be an asset in a nation which is sinking lower and deeper in the morass of immorality. That a large number of political parties of different hues supported his candidature should further lend strength to his elbow. With unforeseen political crises lurking in the dim future, one needs sterling qualities of head and heart plus creative insight to uphold the spirit of the Constitution. Critical times often



toss up a person to meet the crises.

In the 50th year of Independence (which is going to be celebrated with massive-fanfare) there is a symbolic significance in a Dalit becoming the constitutional head of the State. It's a tribute to the maturity of our democracy which proves that one from low strata of Kerala can rise and occupy the highest office in the land. The Americans have proudly talked about "from log house to White House". We can have our own version from backwaters of Kerala to the forefront of the nation.

READERS' FORUM

The best two letters of the month, appearing in the box, have been awarded a prize of Rs 100.00 each. Readers are invited to send us their views on topics covered in this issue. The decision of the Editors will be final.

BLACK MONEY

Our country has been unable to control black money. It has become a major hurdle in our economic progress. The system of tax collection has to be clean and transparent so that generation of unaccounted wealth can be stopped. Unfortunately, the finance ministry does not think on these lines but has half-baked schemes like VDIS which are bound to fail because people fear harassment through the dishonest tax officials.

*Dheeraj Dhawan
Jammu, J&K*

DECLINE OF THE CONGRESS

Your cover feature (June '97) was excellent and gave insights into the decline of a respected political party of India. After Nehru and Shastri, the party has degenerated to a very great extent and given the country many of its weaknesses. It is good that you are highlighting such matters so that young people may guard themselves from mistakes when they enter responsible posts. The decline of the Congress has lessons for all of us.

*S.K. Suri
Bangalore, Karnataka*

EDUCATION SYSTEM

Education is what remains after we have forgotten everything we have learnt. Unfortunately, the quality of education has gone from bad to worse. The education system suffers many shortcomings, but no thought is being given to it by our policy makers. Since students are the backbone of our country's future, there should be no compromise on education and I hope the government realises this before it is too late.

*Preeti Mishra
Nalco Nagar, Orissa*

One method of improving education is to start 'neighbourhood schools' where children of a locality are required to attend and education imparted through the medium of the mother tongue. This will help the constitutional provision of providing free and compulsory education for children between the ages of 6 and 14 years.

*V. Sagar
Delhi*

NEHRU'S SOCIALISM

Your editorial (July '97) makes a scathing attack on Nehruvian policy of secularism and socialism. However, it cannot be denied that in early stages of development, they did help a lot. Capitalism may be all right for developed countries but since we have sharp inequalities of income, socialism was the right choice. Now we are abandoning that path and inequalities will only increase in our society.

*Sanjay Gupta
Calcutta*

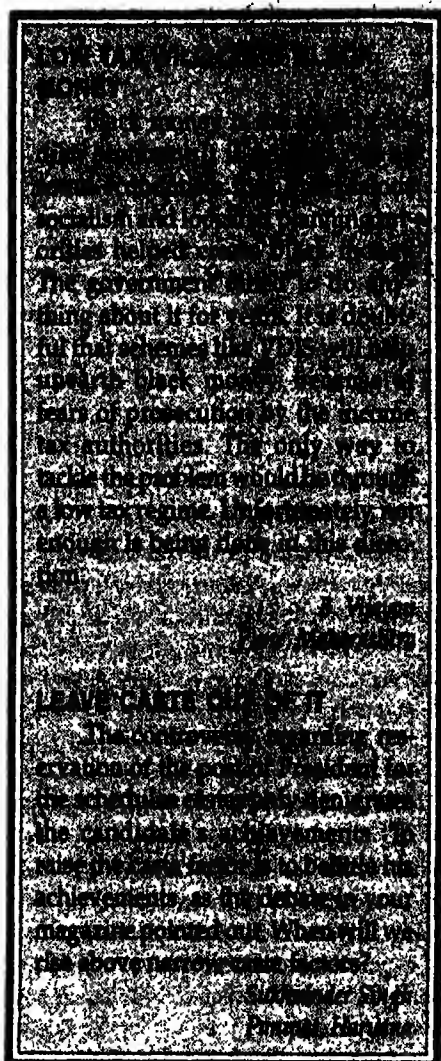
GOD IS A NECESSITY

The debate in the July '97 issue was a great subject and contained stimulating ideas. Man used to worship thunder, rain and lightning thinking them to be supernatural events. Science gave explanations and proved them to be natural events. Similarly, we are bound to find explanations for other events too and the idea of a creator may take a back seat. Science is slow, but sure. In years to come, we may well discover explanations for everything and do away with our psychological necessity as well.

*Shiji P.
Kozhikode, Kerala*

Everybody remembers God in times of distress. In spite of scientific developments, religion remains to be an integral part of life. We need an entity whom we can blame for our failures and pray for our success. However, belief in God also has a positive effect, as people may not commit crimes and live life decently for fear of repaying them in the next birth.

*Paramita Palit
Bhubaneswar, Orissa*



Fear, anxiety and regret are a part of every person's life and at these moments man remembers God the most. The situation is similar to a child running to his mother for protection. Only in this case, God may be man's invention since no scientific proof is available.

*Shrishti Kohli
New Delhi*

CM FEATURES

My father recommended the COMPETITION MASTER to me because he too subscribed to it when he was preparing for competitions. I have found it excellent for improving awareness as well as building my personality

*Manju Panwar
New Delhi*

ESSAY

The Quest for Identity in Modern Literature

THE quest for identity has always haunted the seers and ascetics, who renounce the world and its titillating trap-pings to find answers to the questions: Who am I and what am I? In modern literature, the quest for identity on the part of writers of all genres and the protagonists in their creative writings have assumed different persons at various points of time and situations. As Mr M. Mukundan wrote: "By writing I ask myself questions. Some of these questions may be antiquated or even puerile. Venturing upon an impossible task of unravelling the intrigues of a futile life is itself an exercise in futility, and amounts to the absurd saga of Sisyphus. A good writer is the one who has mastered the art of investigating and interrogating, undaunted in the face of all opposition. As a sick child excited in the intense solitude of my little room, I was learning this art of asking questions."

Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of it, which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language. Man, as we are often reminded, is a social animal; and as he is thus by the actual constitution of his nature unable to keep his experiences, observations, ideas, emotions and fancies to himself, he has opened up the discharge of his sociality through media which in themselves testify to his paramount desire to blend expression with artistic creation.

The critics and others who probe the artistic creations of writers, do not remain content with the surface treatment of characters and their physical, emotional and

psychological condition in a given set of situations, dilemmas or relationships. In their search for deeper meanings of the written words, they try to find out the true identity of the writer with any of his characters. Whether Shakespeare represents Hamlet, Milton the Satan, Wordsworth the pantheist, may pose more problems than an ordinary quest into the issues of daily life. From a simple expression or criticism of life, literature has covered many a milestone.

Forced to lead a nondescript existence among the confused crowds, and lost in the concrete jungle of sky-scrapers, all of us, including the creative writers, are facing a no-win situation where our sensibilities and sensitivities are always under a constant threat of being throttled. We have come to such a pass where 'market-economy' is the mother-supreme and science and technology, the daily deities directing our emotions and manipulating our moods. Literature, that is the mirror of what takes place inside the human psyche and also the reflector of what happens in the external world, is in a state of confusion as to what our identity is in the continuing flux of hope and fear. Writers are at sea because they too are unsure of the ground they stand upon and their characters have become petty pawns at the hands of frivolous feats of success and sensationalism.

Noted writer Milan Kundera puts it aptly. "The characters in my novels are my own unrealised possibilities....I am equally fond of them and equally horrified by them. Each one has crossed a border that I myself have circumvented. It is that crossed border (the border beyond which my own (I) ends) which attracts me most. Far beyond that border begins the secret

the novel asks about. The novel is not the author's confession; it is an investigation of human life in the trap the world has become." Today, that "trap" is a highly charged metaphor. The ordinary English hero is yet to enter that labyrinth of ideas—or inner events—which is an affair not only of the heart but also of the intellect.

R.K. Narayan's novels show that at every stage of life the isolated individual faced the "enormous crowd around". The novels thus expressed the belief that the "profound and unmitigated loneliness" was the only truth in life. The second theme, "we are what others expect us to be" was best expressed in the character of Raju in the "The Guide". On the other side of the spectrum, stands Octavio Paz, a poet to be read in solitude for his silences are pregnant like his words. What marks off Paz's work, from that of his contemporaries, is the celerity with which it moves between two poles; the one marked 'fullness of being' and the other carrying the legend 'emptiness of being'. "There are no more gardens than those we carry within", Paz wrote in the sixties.

To the post modernist writer, loneliness is inescapable. And for Anita Desai, estrangement and isolation lie at the heart of her novels. Within a narrative centering on a search for a voice of identity, she is an object constructed and used by others. For her, there is no redemption—only madness, oblivion and regression into childishness. Escapism is not the destination, it is the quest for experience, perception and identity (discovery). In modern literature, the quest for identity continues, though its form and flavour may vary from one creative artist to the other.

ARTICLE

Approaching the Capital Account Convertibility

During the year 1991 when the process of structural reforms was initiated, the country was faced with many economic problems, the main being related to the external sector. Foreign exchange (Forex) reserves were at a very low level and export growth rate was negative. Even in the domestic sector, performance of agriculture, industrial and tertiary sectors was gloomy. The structural reforms introduced a wide variety of measures in almost all parts of the economy. One major initiative was introduction of partial convertibility of rupee on current account, which was gradually replaced by full convertibility of rupee on current account. As a result, the international value of rupee, which was earlier determined by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), by pegging it to a few foreign currencies, was now determined by the market forces of demand and supply.

Cautious Approach

THE gradual but subtle manner in which the current account convertibility was introduced has proved the resilience of Indian economy, which smoothly adopted the new system within a period of two years, without any hic-ups. RBI played an important role in keeping the value of rupee stable vis-a-vis dollar by indulging in sale and purchase of dollar during the hours of crisis, influencing significantly the demand and supply of the dollar in Indian market.

The current account convertibility has paid rich dividends during the past about four years. The price of Indian rupee vis-a-vis dollar, which was around Rs 26 during 1991, went up to over Rs 30 within two years and encouraged the exporters to export more on the one hand, and motivated the Indians abroad to send more remittances to their

motherland, as they were now getting more rupees for every dollar exchanged against rupee, on the other hand. Also described as a back-door devaluation by many, the current account full convertibility of rupee resulted in stepping up the growth of exports in the country, which peaked at 21 per cent in dollar terms during 1995-96. Forex reserves, which touched an all time low level during 1991, went up appreciably and were at comfortable \$ 17 billion at the end of 1996-97.

The next logical step will be Capital Account Convertibility (CAC). Convertibility on capital account would make Indian rupee truly and fully convertible in the international market. It would dismantle all the barriers on free flow of capital in and out of the country, making many existing regulatory Acts and Rules irrelevant. In any case, a large number of Hawala operators working actively in the country already transact the illegal business of capital transfers worth millions of dollars every year. Moreover, no country can globalise the economy in real terms unless its currency is fully convertible and all the restrictions on the capital flows, both into and outside it, are lifted.

Realizing this, the government has already been on the lookout for introducing CAC to give a fillip to foreign investment in the country. As a preliminary step in this direction the government had set up a Committee on Capital Account Convertibility under the Chairmanship of Mr S.S. Tarapore, a former deputy governor of the RBI. Tarapore Committee on CAC submitted its detailed report to the Central Bank on June 3, 1997, setting the stage for introduction of CAC in a phased manner over a period of three years, seeking to enforce complete convertibility of Indian

rupee by the year 1999-2000 AD.

Conditional Projections

ALTHOUGH CAC Committee Report is still required to be studied in detail by the RBI, indications are that the apex bank would not lose much time in adopting the report. Foreign capital requirements in the economy are immense and no time can be lost unnecessarily in adopting the report. The report prescribes certain pre-conditions in the economy. Gross Fiscal deficit to the GDP ratio has to come down considerably from budgeted 4.5 per cent in 1997-98 to 3.5 per cent by 1999-2000 AD. Inflation rate should also remain under control between 3 to 5 per cent during 1997-2000 period. Yet another precondition is the proper designing of the external sector policies to increase current receipt to GDP ratio and bring down the debt serving ratio from 25 per cent to 20 per cent.

The banking sector is supposed to pull up its stocks and bring down the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from 13.7 per cent to 5 per cent by 2000 AD. At the same time average effective Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) also needs to be brought down from 9.3 per cent to 3 per cent. The government is expected to introduce suitable policy measures to ensure achieving these pre-conditions.

In the three prescribed phases spread over 3-year period, beginning from the current financial year, the Corporates can open current/chequable accounts upto \$ 1,00,000 in any bank abroad. Moreover, the corporates can borrow freely any amount upto \$ 1 million from the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), with no stipulations on end use maturity or repatriation

of loan or interest. Investment institutions may be allowed to invest upto \$ 2 billion in overseas markets without any restrictions and even individuals could borrow from the NRI, upto \$ 5,00,000.

The above time plan prescribed by Tarapore Committee, if approved and adopted by the RBI in toto, would facilitate more efficient capital flows and projects would not have to wait longer for want of internal resources. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), as well as Foreign Institutional Investments (FIIs), are likely to grow at a rapid speed, considering the fact that India offers a huge market for engineering, industrial and consumer goods. Free flow of capital would also bring down the cost of capital considerably, both for individuals as well as corporates.

Inherent Risks

THE path to CAC is not without risks. It is mainly to obviate these risks that the pre-conditions have been proposed. Still, many risks remain prominent. Firstly, Hawala black market is operating in India efficiently, practically making the rupee convertible on capital account. The strong Hawala operators would like to see that the CAC is delayed as long as possible, thereby delaying legal status to capital in-flows and out-flows in the economy. Secondly, it is feared that CAC may result in making the rupee instable in the international market. It is admitted that CAC is an irreversible process which would put enormous pressure on the value of rupee. Increased volatility of rupee may have to be countered by keeping some bare minimum government controls. In an economy like ours, where most of the newly introduced macro-economic mechanisms have not fully developed so far, an instable value of rupee may spell disaster. Peso crisis in Mexico was also triggered by its convertibility and subsequent poor management. But, Mexico had a strong mentor in USA which immediately rescued it. As India does not have any such strong economic companion, due precautions and safeguards have to be taken to ensure smooth sailing.

Under the circumstances where finan-

cial and political climate in the country becomes uncertain, the fears about higher flight of capital abroad cannot be ruled out. This would also put additional strain on the forex reserves. In any case, CAC would need higher forex reserves to service the existing debts and current account deficits. The minimum requirement is estimated at \$ 45 billion for two years as against the existing level of around \$ 17 billion.

The above risks need to be guarded against fully. As per one opinion, correct approach should be to first remove the existing restrictions on the current account convertibility and then liberalise for investment abroad. Recommendations of Tarapore Committee are also on these lines. In addition, the government may have to undertake suitable amendments in the existing Indian tax laws and in double tax avoidance agreements. Domestic tax regimes must be able to rationalise and converge to international tax structures to dissuade the Hawala operators from continuing a parallel system.

Critique

THE road to full convertibility on capital account is replete with insurmountable problems. The three-phased path is not as simple and smooth, as it is made out to be. The time frame of three years may turn out to be inadequate if the government is unable to ensure the pre-requisites prescribed by the Committee. The country has to safeguard adequately against heavy outflows of capital. Unprecedentedly higher outflows of capital may put under strain the meagre capital resources available in the country.

The government has been battling to contain the gross fiscal deficit as percentage of the GDP for the last about five years. For the current year's budget, the target of gross fiscal deficit has been fixed at 4.5 per cent of the GDP while the percentage of 3.5 is required to be achieved by 2000 AD. Strict financial control, therefore, is required to be exercised by the government if this level is to be achieved. Fiscal con-

solidation is certainly a key to the successful CAC.

Yet another pre-requisite is limiting the rate of inflation to 3 to 5 per cent per annum. If the current level of 6 per cent is any indication, it appears difficult to achieve the required level of 3 to 5 per cent within the given time frame. The problem of persistent price rise is likely to be compounded by the impending increase of the oil prices, which, whenever it takes place, is certain to fuel the price rise considerably.

Also, unless the country witnesses a fairly long spell of political stability, it would be difficult to complete the process of convertibility smoothly. The process being irreversible, it would be catastrophic to postpone the completion of the process in between.

There is yet another danger connected with the introduction of CAC. Free flow of capital would also result in unabated inflow of modern technology in the industrial sector. This is likely to demolish the Small Scale Industries (SSI) sector as well as Village industries. Highly capital-intensive technology developed in the West may not be exactly suitable for a labour-abundant India. Domestic industries as well as SSI sector may not be able to withstand the stiff competition likely to be offered by ultra-modern products to be manufactured by the foreign ventures. This may also result in widespread unemployment, forced by displacement of labour. Unless proper safeguards are taken to guard against such an eventuality, it may harm the economy more than assisting it.

The road to capital account convertibility, in any case, is going to be a bumpy one. While on the one hand, all prescribed pre-requisites have to be achieved during the next three years, all the measures have also to be adopted at the given point of time, on the other hand, for adequate safeguards against the anticipated economic fallouts. But, despite all these problems, there is no denying the fact that in case India wishes to develop like most of the western countries have, she has to go in for CAC as soon as possible.

SPECIAL FEATURE

NATO'S Partnership for Peace

A summit of 16 nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was held in Madrid in July, 1997. Created after World War II to counter the threat to the freedom of Western Europe, questions have arisen about the usefulness of NATO, since the Soviet Union has broken up and there is no such threat now. However, the NATO is being expanded to include new members and has raised European fears of hegemonic domination by the United States.

This feature discusses the future of the NATO and the US attempts to boss over NATO. What role does the alliance for a world which is no longer as black and white as it was after the war?

AT the end of World War II, the world consisted of two distinct camps: the Allies, consisting of US and Western European States, and Soviet Union and countries in Eastern Europe which were its satellites. The leaders succeeded in splitting Europe and that was the way the world stayed for many years.

The North Atlantic treaty was signed in Washington on April 4, 1949. It was a response to the perceived threat to the freedom and security of Western Europe and ten countries had joined the US and Canada for the alliance. The 12 nations were committed to each other's defence. An attack on any one was to be construed as an attack on all the nations. Later, four more European nations acceded to the treaty. The 16 members of the NATO are: USA, UK, Turkey, Spain, Portugal, Norway, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy, Iceland, Greece, Germany, France, Denmark, Canada and Belgium.

The artificial division between the East and the West broke down in 1989 after

a long and bitter cold war. The collapse of the Berlin wall signified the breaking of barriers between the East and the West. A weakened Russia was not a threat any longer. The end of the communist rule in Europe signified the end of ideological and military divisions. NATO was restructured to enable it to fulfil the core function of mutual security and protection of the 16 member nations, while also participating in the development of security measures for the whole continent.

Successful Alliance

THE alliance is described as the most successful alliance in history. But what role can it play when the security threat from the communist Eastern Europe has vanished? The Russian President Boris Yeltsin has already signed an agreement with the NATO leaders that Russian nuclear weapons would no longer target their people. Logically, the military alliance should have been dismantled when this happened. The reason that has not happened is that nations find it beneficial to be part of an international security arrangement rather than have individual armies.

Nations wanting to join it look for security. Rather than maintain separate armies which would be too small anyway, they seek a guarantee that a multinational force would come to their aid in the event of any future conflict. Such security, it is felt, will help in reinforcing democracy and freedom in the member countries.

A decision was taken at the Madrid summit to expand it by including former communist-ruled countries. Poland, Hungary and the Czech republic have been invited to join the alliance in 1999. It is

expected that in the first decade of the 21st century, ten more nations from Eastern and Central Europe will join.

One reason for countries joining NATO is a safeguard against the kind of situation that arose during the World War. At that time, Germany under Hitler had overrun most of Europe. He had visions of ruling the world and found it easy to take over European countries which had little military capability of their own. The European States were left to fend for themselves and fell to Germany one by one. A military alliance would prevent any country from over-running the other. Secondly, the alliance would guard against conflicts among member nations and end isolation of certain countries. The tragedy in Bosnia could well have been avoided had former Yugoslavia been part of such an alliance.

If they do not join, the East European countries would have to patch up their own armies and make their separate security arrangements. This would not only be expensive in the long run but also give rise to the possibility of conflicts among them and sometimes degeneration into civil war. NATO will ensure that nothing like this takes place and assumes the role of a global policeman.

Establishing Security

OVER the years, NATO has helped maintain security in the region. Its first major post-war military feat was the structuring of a force of some 30,000 military personnel to maintain peace in Bosnia after the signing of the Dayton accord in November 1995. The civil war in Bosnia culminated in Europe's biggest effort leading to NATO initiated and supervised multi-

national peace-keeping operations. This gave a new strategic role to NATO and helped recover its morale.

In January, 1994, leaders of NATO had met in Brussels to endorse the "Partnership for Peace" programme which offered all former Warsaw pact countries closer military links. NATO Secretary General Javier Solana has been engaged in diplomatic activity to salvage European leaders' confidence in the alliance. The Czech and Polish Presidents had warned that Europe could be heading for a new cold war if NATO failed to ease the anxieties of the emerging East European States on the security front.

There have been divergent views among the Germans, British and French about the NATO's role. The alliance, however, continues to retain its viability and credibility. That is why membership remains a desirable objective for democracies in Eastern Europe.

NATO's commitment to the collective defence of its members remains unchanged. It is the world's most powerful, modern and sophisticated military alliance with awesome technology backed by matchless nuclear and conventional fire power. It is fulfilling a political purpose as well—the very possibility of membership has encouraged countries to improve relations with one another and strengthen democracy within them.

NATO, thus, continues to be relevant today, even though the old threats have disappeared.

US Domination

THE alliance, nevertheless, has raised fears of US domination. There is little doubt that NATO is an instrument that the US dominates and would like to keep its influence in the region, a fact which is not palatable to many countries. Russia declined an invitation to its President to be present in Madrid. Yeltsin has been under tremendous pressure to counter the NATO drive to its doors. The coordination council gives Russia to have its say, but no veto power. The post-Madrid reality is that Moscow has been driven to the wall and can do virtually nothing about it. Nation-

alists in Russia, who had been worked up over the West's march to their border, are expected to exploit the issue which may lead to disastrous consequences.

The Russians see the alliance as inimical to its interests. The NATO expansion, which now includes some of its former allies, will be followed by an epoch-making enlargement of the European Union. Former satellites of the Soviet Union will opt for one or the other. Are all these steps designed to decimate the importance of Russia, once a superpower? How will it respond to this new challenge?

The decision to include new members also smacked of US dominance. French President Jacques Chirac had doggedly pressed for the inclusion of Romania and Slovakia and also demanded that a European and not an American should run NATO's southern command in Naples. These demands were not agreed to, causing the French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin to complain about the "hegemonic tendencies" of the US. Such differences are indicators that the road ahead for NATO might not be an easy one.

The behaviour of the US gives rise to the fear that NATO is used as a platform to carry on its expansionist foreign policy to dominate the Eastern as well as the whole of Europe. One viewpoint is that the newly admitted members of NATO would have to buy American arms since they would be going in for renewal of their armoury. American domination may thus arise from commercial interests and are also designed to protect the interest of its arms manufacturers.

Military expenditure

THIS, however, does not mean that the US President will find it easy to get supporters at home. Increasingly, Americans are questioning what military threat the NATO expansion is supposed to counter and how it will help the stability of Europe. A number of people in USA are already asking whether it makes sense for the country to interfere in border and ethnic disputes in Europe. They question, why the taxpayer's money should be wasted in solving problems of distant

countries.

At the same time, why should the new democracies spend their money on military equipment to meet a non-existent threat when they desperately need money for things like education and water supplies? What the new democracies need is economic union but what the West is offering them is not a membership of the European Union, but of a military alliance. The irony cannot be lost on most people.

President Clinton faces the task of persuading the US Senate to ratify the NATO expansion. This may be difficult, with Senators questioning the wisdom of such an expansion. Some Senators have warned of "a policy error of historic proportions" and if the movement picks up, Clinton may find it difficult to win the two-thirds vote for the ratification. A major objection will be about footing the bill required for the expansion.

Clearly, the NATO expansion is not without costs. Countries joining it will have to spend heavily to upgrade their armies to Western standards. The cost for the three new members is estimated to be \$ 35 billion over 13 years, a figure which may well double if other countries are included. This may be music to the ears of arms manufacturers, but does not have a convincing answer why it should be done at all.

The US government claims that this will increase security in the region and reinforce democracy. The contradiction is that while US and Russia have tried to reduce deployment of strategic weapons in the past, the NATO expansion does exactly the opposite. With the West expanding its military alliance, how will Russia respond? It is expected that it will become increasingly difficult to negotiate with it to reduce arms and nuclear stockpiles. The NATO expansion may, thus, sound the end of arms limitation talks and voluntary destruction of nuclear weapons.

Also, with the expansion of alliance becoming a reality now, Clinton will go down in history as the US President who united Europe, at least from the security angle.

SPECIAL FEATURE

India Elects a New President

The election of Mr K.R. Narayanan as President of India was almost a certainty. The election was marred by an unseemly controversy when some legislators demanded that the post be reserved for a scheduled caste candidate. His election without such reservation and without any party whip was undoubtedly a sterling achievement. What more can be said about a country if a dalit could rise to the highest post in the country without the crutches of reservation? Indeed, to repeatedly raise the point about his caste was to belittle the exemplary achievements of the man

This feature looks at the presidential elections this year and the issue of party whip raised by the Election Commissioner. It describes the process of the election and gives a sketch of India's first Dalit President.

INDIA'S Presidential elections were held this year, with President Shankar Dayal Sharma's term expiring on July 24, 1997. There were two candidates in the fray this time, Vice-President K.R. Narayanan and former Chief Election Commissioner TN Seshan. Of these, the election of Narayanan became a certainty as he had the support of most parties. His election gave India its first Dalit President.

Politicians were scared of Seshan and were wary of putting their weight behind him. Laloo Prasad Yadav summed the attitude towards him when he said that Seshan would change the Central government every week were he to become President. The man had not endeared himself to politicians by his strict approach as CEC. In one television commercial, he had declared he ate politicians for breakfast. Though he remains to be a middle class hero, he suffered a loss of stature by seeking the support of the Shiv Sena for his candidature and meekly meeting the same politicians whom he had criticised. In the end, Seshan could not even put up a small fight and had failed to influence the electoral college consisting of 773 MPs and 4,052 State legislators.

Electoral arithmetic

THE President of India is elected on the basis of votes polled by the elected representatives constituting the electoral college. The arithmetic gives a value to the vote of the MLA and the MP as follows:

$$\text{Value of vote of MLA} = \frac{\text{State population}}{\text{No of State MLAs}} \times 1000$$

$$\text{Value of vote of MP} = \frac{\text{Total votes of all MLAs}}{\text{Total MPs (LS + RS)}}$$

The value of MLA vote varies from State to State depending on the population and the number of MLAs. Together, the value of their votes was 5,47,209. The 773 MPs commanded 5,47,284 votes, bringing the value of the electoral college to over 10 lakh votes. On an average, the vote of an MP is five times that of an MLA. No political party commanded an absolute majority and was not in a position to dictate terms about the choice of the President. The highest share of the votes was held by the United Front, which held about 35% votes but that was not enough in the electoral arithmetic to have a majority. This time, it had to be a candidate who had a broad consensus among the different parties. The strength of the different parties is given below:

United Front	3,87,591	35.41%
BJP and Allies	3,06,932	28.04%
Congress and Allies	2,86,317	26.15%
Others	1,13,653	10.40%
Total	10,94,493	100%

The choice of a politically correct candidate was unanimous—Narayanan was a man of scholarship, he had been non-controversial and was the Vice-President. His Dalit background made him the ideal candidate for politicians wanting to claim

a share in the social justice pie. He had been the Presidential candidate in 1992 but the Congress had opted for S.D. Sharma at that time. Now, he was the perfect choice: he fulfilled the tradition of the Vice-President getting elevated to the post of President. In the past, five Presidents had been thus elevated. They were S. Radhakrishnan, Zakir Hussain, V.V. Giri, R. Venkataraman and S.D. Sharma.

Whip-Free Election

THE Election Commissioner had earlier raised a point about the Constitutional propriety of issuing whips by political parties in the Presidential elections. The whip prevented a person from exercising free and independent choice. In the matter of elections of the highest position in the country, this would amount to subversion of democracy. The Election Commissioner said that the President of India is elected by the representatives of the people and thus represented the will of the people indirectly. They should be allowed to vote as they pleased.

The election was finally held in the absence of any whips. In fact, a consensus had been beginning to emerge in Narayanan's favour. Hardly anybody opposed his election. In the era of coalition politics, Narayanan fitted the bill of an unbiased President, who would hold the traditions of the high office. His achievements and multi-faceted personality made him the ideal choice, cutting across parties and ideologies. The fact that he was able to get so many votes without a whip speaks of his acceptability cutting across party affiliations.

Though a consensus was fast emerging in favour of Narayanan, it was criticised by none other than Seshan himself. At this time, he said, the country needed an activist President and not one who was passive. Political life had degenerated so much that the President should be able to exercise his

options much more than being a rubber stamp. His views were supported by many but at the same time, the need for a person who granted stability was also felt. The country was not ready for principled politics just as yet.

The Caste Factor

A needless controversy was sought to be introduced in the Presidential elections by some legislators who demanded that the post of President be reserved for the scheduled castes. It did not occur to them that to put the label of caste on a man who had risen by sheer perseverance and hard work would be doing a gross injustice to him, rather than help him.

The story of the new President (see box) is not of cornering the benefits of reservations but of amazing courage in the face of adversity. The man who holds the highest post today often found himself out of the class in school for not being able to pay the school fee and this speaks volumes of the struggle faced by him. For politicians, of course, a label helped to proclaim their hypocritical commitment to the cause of social justice. Unfortunately, in today's India, symbolism has become the only way to uplift the lower castes. *Dalit* politics in the past four decades has ignored economic upliftment almost completely in favour of symbols.

Such symbols can be found a plenty in modern India. In Uttar Pradesh, statues of Ambedkar are being installed on a large scale and the government is spending Rs 120 crore to build an Ambedkar memorial in Lucknow. Such symbolism does not help an impoverished *dalit*, a fact conveniently forgotten by present-day politicians. Instead of helping the *dalits*, such actions sometimes provoke a backlash against them, as in Mumbai, where a statue of Ambedkar was garlanded with chappals, leading to violence and destruction.

The average *dalit* mired in poverty probably has little use of statues and would be better off if economic schemes enable him to earn a day's wage. There are, however, few such schemes available.

Tasks Before President

NARAYANAN has become President at an important time in Indian history. The voter has lost faith in the politician and is unwilling to give a majority to any party. A neutral President will help solve many a crisis arising out of coalitions.

Apart from upholding the Constitution, what Narayanan can do as President is to help change the perception of caste that dominates national life. The nation must move from reservation based system to one that encourages merit and scholarship. Facilities for education and economic upliftment of the lower castes

must be provided, instead of meaningless symbols which do not help the *dalit* or anyone else. Since Narayanan's achievements rest more on hard work than reservation, he is the person who can help change perception in this country. The need of the hour is to move away from making noises for the *dalits* to actually doing something for India's downtrodden.

In the fiftieth year of India's independence, it would perhaps be the right time to begin to change our thinking and perception. With a learned man like Narayanan as President, it is hoped that a process starts that makes the country look ahead from the debilitating effects of caste politics as played in this country

India's New President

Born on February 4, 1921 in Uzhavoor village in Kerala, Kocheri Raman Narayanan's journey to the Rashtrapati Bhawan was one long march indeed. His story is one of perseverance and fighting the odds of life which should be the source of inspiration for all.



Narayanan belonged to a poor family. One of six children of an *ayurvedic* doctor, poverty often pulled him down. He had to walk 16 km to school every day and often did not have enough money to pay the school fees. When he was thrown out of class for this, instead of going home he would stand outside the class and listened because he did not want to miss out on any lesson. The humiliating experiences did not embitter him but "were to foster in me a sense of equanimity and magnanimity", in his own words. "These qualities paid handsomely when I became a diplomat. These bitter experiences taught me forbearance and diplomacy."

After schooling, he joined the Kottayam Intermediate College where he obtained his BA (Honours) degree in 1943. A scholarship helped him through college. He joined *The Hindu* in Madras as a sub-editor and after a year he came to Delhi to work for the *Economic Weekly for Commerce and Industry*. A scholarship for study at the London School of Economics could not be availed of because of the World War and he worked with *The Times of India* in Bombay for a while. After the War, he went to the LSE and on his return joined the Indian Foreign Service. In Rangoon, he was to meet Ms Tint Tint who was to become his wife. She changed her name to Usha and the couple was blessed with two daughters.

During his tenure in the Foreign Service, he served as India's envoy to Thailand, Turkey and China. On retirement in 1979, he was appointed Vice-Chancellor of JNU and in 1980 he was sent to the USA to normalise relations with that country, to return in 1984. He won the Lok Sabha elections from the Ottapalam constituency thrice and was in several ministries.

As India's 10th President, his achievement speaks of his scholarship and perseverance and that makes him no ordinary Indian. He brings to the *Rashtrapati Bhawan* the dignity and status associated with the high post.

DEBATE; DISCUSSION

Should Chargesheeted Politicians Resign?

Rajiv Gandhi had called them limpets: people who stuck to their positions of power whatever the circumstances. The politician to have acquired this description in recent times would be former Bihar Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav, who has refused to step down even though the CBI chargesheeted him and the Patna High Court rejected his anticipatory application. On the contrary, he tried to destroy the ruling coalition government in a bid to save himself.

Though there can be no defence for the corrupt politician, it is also a fact that chargesheets of the CBI are often weak and are thrown out by the courts, resulting in acquittal of the accused. A leader who resigns may find himself wrongly victimised because he cannot get his position back later. What is to be done then? In this issue, we debate a question that has acquired great significance in a world of shifting moral values.

Mr A The topic that we have for discussion today is an important one, considering the fact that leaders are not what they once were. In the past month, the news has been dominated by the extremely sorry spectacle of the Bihar Chief Minister sticking on to his position even after the CBI filed chargesheets against him and others in the animal husbandry case. Demands for resignation were met with an arrogant denial and threats to take down the Central government with him. Here was a prime example of a politician putting his personal interest before the interest of the nation. It also exposed the thinking of the average politician: he thinks that he has a license to loot once he gets elected and nobody has the right to question him. Laloo Prasad Yadav has been arguing that nobody appointed him

as Chief Minister. He got the post after he won the elections, so how does anybody have the right to remove him? This implies that he cannot be removed from office no matter what he does. To my mind, this is a fallacious argument. Politicians are elected by the people and they trust him to that extent. If the person is found to be degenerate, do the people have no way of removing him? Why should they suffer him for the entire term? I regret that the concept of democracy has been pushed too far. There should be safeguards within the system so that a corrupt leader can be removed or dismissed, if he does not have the morality to resign.

Mr B I do not agree with your argument at all. What you are saying is that a person becomes corrupt the moment any person points a finger at him. We know that is wrong. Even the law accepts the concept of treating a man innocent till he is proved guilty. You have, on the other hand, assumed that Laloo Prasad Yadav is guilty till proved innocent and are quick to demand his resignation. This means that every leader must give up his chair whenever any allegations are levelled against him. If this were to happen, we will have no governments at all, since every politician has some allegations or the other against him. Many politicians who were chargesheeted earlier were acquitted later—who will redress them for wrongful accusation? Whatever faults that Laloo may have, I think he is right in not resigning. Yes, if he is found guilty by the courts, he should certainly face prosecution. Till then, what right do we have in asking him to resign? If the

chargesheet filed against him does not stand up to scrutiny, can he become Chief Minister again? Let us not rush in to demand anyone's resignation merely on allegation and chargesheet. Let the charges be proved against him and then he should face whatever punishment the court decides.

Mr C Theoretically you may be right, however, your argument is the favourite defence of all corrupt people. That is why corruption has increased in our country. Every politician knows that the legal process is a long winded one and there are several ways that hearings can be postponed indefinitely. Taking recourse to legal methods and arguing that a person is innocent till proved guilty, is the ideal escape of the scoundrel. A cartoon in a newspaper summed this up very well: it shows a thief climbing a pipe to a window and when he is caught, he says that climbing up to a window does not show intention of theft. That is what the politicians also seem to be saying. They have been caught with their pants down but defy onlookers to prove charges against them. There can obviously be no real proof for their crimes and they want to exploit that. But, there is always indirect evidence. In the case of Laloo, for instance, even if it is accepted that he is not guilty, the question arises how he is able to bring up his many children on the income that he earns legally. The cost of life these days is so much that for a person, even bringing up two children is a problem. Where does his extra income come from? He may escape the charges of corruption because there may not be enough evidence, but the fact is that he

must have some means of income that he has not declared. Leaving the legal angle, does he have no morals to leave his chair? In this case, giving the person a benefit of doubt and saying that he is innocent till proved guilty is absolutely wrong. Let Laloo Prasad Yadav not hide behind legal methods but declare all his wealth and assets and also explain how he is paying for the education and upbringing of his children. If that is not acceptable to the courts or the people, he should resign and face charges of corruption.

Mr D We should also not forget that leaders are not ordinary people. They are looked up by people and must set an example for everybody. They are role models for youth. They have to be cleaner than the rest of us. I, therefore, agree with the argument that leaders should own up responsibility and not hide behind legal methods of prolonging court cases. The courts should also understand that reputations are at stake and speedy disposal of cases should be taken up. You are saying that a person may be acquitted later on and thus should be assumed innocent till proved guilty. Since evidence in most such cases simply does not exist, it would mean that every politician is innocent. We know that this is just not true. Charges of corruption against a powerful leader cannot be made without any basis: he can sue for defamation if frivolous charges are made. On the other hand, the attitude of the politicians is one of arrogance—they seem to say that we can do anything and nobody can prove anything against us. None has sued the CBI for trying to defame them but are merely saying that go ahead, prove the charges. This means that in their heart too, they know what they have done but are confident that the papers and evidence has been destroyed. I think, therefore, that it is high time to invert the legal principle. In the case of politicians, they should be taken as guilty till proved innocent. Once the charges are made, they should be made to give up their chair and face the law as a cor-

mon man, without having an opportunity to subvert government machinery in their legal battle.

Mr E You seem to be biased against the politician. Agreed, politicians are not what they once were. But you have to look at the national scene of which they are a part too. Standards of honesty have fallen in every field. Corruption is all pervasive and has stopped being an issue anymore. Take the example of election funding. Before the last election, it was common knowledge that every party was spending beyond its declared sources of income. Where was the money coming from? From illegal donations and *hawala* channels. If everybody is corrupt, why single out one leader? I think that either the whole system should be changed or leaders should not be victimised. We know that if a cleansing takes place, about 90% of our leaders and bureaucrats would have to resign. The government would come to a standstill. So, resignation is no solution. And since we cannot clean our system thoroughly, I think we should learn to live with corruption rather than make an issue out of it. Let us accept our loss of character. After all, the people elected leaders like Laloo Prasad Yadav. Let them suffer him for one term. At least they will know what kind of person they should not vote for in future.

Mr A While I agree with you that almost every leader is corrupt, I still say that resignation should be made compulsory if charges of corruption are brought against a bureaucrat or leader, or else he should declare his assets beforehand, prove his innocence and ask for damages for defamation. Since he is not doing that, clearly he has something to hide. Look at the image we are projecting to the rest of the world if we allow the corrupt to continue. Leaders who visit us to negotiate on behalf of their country will not be sure where the person whom they are meeting may end up a few months later. In the whole process, India's image is taking a beat-

ing. Further, take a look at Bihar: it is not only one of our most backward State but in the past few months has had no governance at all. The Chief Minister and most senior functionaries have been engaged in fighting cases and saving their skins. The State resembles an anarchy and even travelling in trains is not safe. That is why a charged politician must resign: he has no time to look after the people or the State. If he sticks on, no purpose would really be served.

Mr C There is a point in what you are saying. I also agree that the image of the country suffers. We are already looked upon as a soft State and now we are looked upon as a country of thieves. The antics of Laloo Prasad and his colleagues clearly show that he is not clean. He once boasted that Jharkhand would be created over his dead body, but now has tied up with Jharkhand Mukti Morcha MPs and become a supporter for their cause. The JMM MPs had earlier acquired notoriety for allegedly taking bribes from Narasimha Rao. Really, there seems to be no greater depth that a person can stoop to. Morally, the man has no right to continue. When we say that a chargesheeted politician should not resign, we forget that we belong to the land of Mahatma Gandhi, who spread the gospel of truth all over the world. True, standards may have fallen in all fields, but we still must keep up our traditions.

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CAREER

An Alternative Engineering Career

If you are inclined towards engineering, IITs and engineering colleges are not the only institutes which you can aim for. There are some alternatives available which are equally sought after and provide good training and opportunities for growth.

One such institute is the Indo-Swiss Training Centre (ISTC) at Chandigarh, a part of the Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO). It was established in 1963 in co-operation with the Swiss Foundation for Technical Assistance, Switzerland. It offers an alternative engineering career with three options: a Diploma in Instrument Technology (3 years), Advanced Diploma in Mechatronics and Industrial Automation (4 years) and Advanced Diploma in Die and Mould Making (4 years). The diplomas in Instrument Technology and Die and Mould Making have been recognised by the Government of India while the advanced diploma in Mechatronics and Industrial Automation has been recognised by All Indian Council of Technical Education (AICTE).

The institute is fulfilling a need of the industry by providing trained manpower in these critical areas. One major advantage that ISTC has is that it provides training on high technology machines. With an emphasis on practical training, students get invaluable experience which other institutes cannot provide. Sometimes it takes up developmental jobs from outside and students get to make actual components that will be used in machines. Being a part of the CSIO helps. It is the practical orientation and development of hands-on skill that really sets the training centre apart.

Eligibility and Entrance: The minimum qualification for applying to the ISTC

is matriculation/Higher Secondary with science subjects and mathematics with minimum 55% marks in aggregate. Candidates who have passed class 12 with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics with minimum 55% marks are also considered. Entrance is through open competition. There is a written test for admission and this is usually held on the last Sunday in June every year. The test consists of English, Mathematics, Science and General Knowledge. The test is like the engineering entrance test and the level of questions asked is class 10 of CBSE. There are about 100 objective-type questions and one has to score the maximum possible. The annual training fee is Rs 7,200 for day scholars and Rs 9,300 for hostellers. A hostel is available on the campus for the students.

Training: The ISTC has a number of machines on which the students can train. Emphasis is placed on developing skills and 70% of the course work is practical. The students work on the machines individually and are trained to execute industrial jobs and face real life work situations. Values of punctuality, cleanliness and commitment are also imparted. Training consists of fabrication of precision components and assembly. The Centre has many machines including CNC Technology, Jig Boring, Injection and compression moulds, press tools, computer applications and industrial automation. The training is for boys only as the work is physically demanding.

Prospects: There is a great demand for skilled instrument technicians and trained manpower in the country. The training centre assists students in getting jobs. Most of the students are recruited

through campus recruitment and have jobs even before they finish their final year. According to the statistics supplied by the Centre, some 73.8% of the students get taken by the private sector. About 11% go abroad while the public sector takes another 10%. About 5% start their own businesses. Entry level salaries range from Rs 4-5,000 but growth is fast. Those who take up jobs do very well because of their practical orientation and are quickly promoted. Depending on one's ability, one can rise up to the post of General Manager. Among the companies that have recruited ISTC students are Titan, Godrej-GE, Wipro, Hero Honda, Kelvinator, DCM, SCL and many others. Students are in high demand because of their knowledge of technology and machines and their practical orientation.

Training with ISTC offers an alternative engineering career. In many cases, it is better than a formal engineering degree because of its practical orientation. Engineering colleges do not offer hands-on practical training which ISTC offers. That is why candidates who finish their training are sought after by industry. The facilities and the technology available are much higher. As the number of seats are limited (70), there is a stiff competition for admission.

The training is common for the first two years and in the third year, students branch out. Of the 70 trainees taken, 35 do the diploma in Instrument Technology, 15 opt for the Industrial Automation Diploma and 20 become trained in Die and Mould Making.

The training is divided into semesters. For the diploma in Instrument Technology, there are 6 semesters with 567 teaching periods each of workshop prac-

tice. Theory subjects such as technical drawing, physics, chemistry, engineering, mathematics and so on, take up 378 teaching periods per semester. Two weeks per semester are for examination, which is held in workshop practice and theory subjects. The total teaching periods are 3042 for workshop practice and 2268 for theory subjects.

In the four-year advanced diploma in die and mould-making, there are 5082 teaching periods for workshop practice which includes extensive practical work on lathe and milling machines, boring machines, heat treatment, jig boring and so on. There are 2478 periods for theory subjects as well during which engineering mechanics, electronics, production planning and modern machining technology is taught. Trainees also get to know about plastics technology, mould technology and press tool technology. While in the four-year advanced diploma in Mechatronics and Industrial Automation, computer technology, process control, industrial management and engineering design is also taken up besides technical skills.

The ISTC is fulfilling a need of the industry by providing trained manpower which has adequate practical skills. Similar training centres have been set up by Danish collaboration in Delhi and by German collaboration in Ludhiana. However, these are not enough considering the requirement of skilled manpower and there is need to set up more of these. The training centres provide what the engineering colleges do not—exposure to technology and the chance to work on sophisticated machines. Set up with foreign collaboration, they have more discipline and provide quality inputs. For students who want to make a career in engineering, these centres provide a good alternative.

To apply, look out for the admission notification in February/March. The forms are available from April. The written test is held in June and the session starts by the middle of July. The address for applying is: Indo Swiss Training Centre, Central Scientific Instruments Organisation, Sector 30, Chandigarh - 160 020.

CAREERSPEAK



Tejinder Singh did his diploma in die and mould-making from the ISTC in Ludhiana and then started his own engineering unit. He now makes dies for a number of companies and finds that demand is so high that he alone cannot supply. He registered for the diploma after his class 10 and passed the entrance test. After four years of training, he was ready to face the world and planned to start his own business. He did so with a sum of Rs 25,000 and the business has grown steeply. Today, he has sophisticated machines and makes tools and dies for some well known industries.

Tejinder is happy that he chose ISTC and not engineering. "It helped me gain practical experience and knowledge of the machines", he says. "It has helped me because I know the machines and understand them." He feels that an engineering degree would not have given him the practical knowledge that he needed.

To get in, he had to clear the first hurdle, the entrance test, which is like the engineering entrance test. It has questions on maths, science, English and general knowledge. For the latter two subjects the *Competition Master* came in very handy. "A regular practice of the problems published in the magazine helps a great deal", says Tejinder. He says he bought the magazine for many years and still remembers it fondly.

The training is tough. "You have to stand at the machine for 8 hours three days a week and that is not comfortable", he says. That is one reason why the diploma is open only for boys. The hands-on experience of course helps. "We are able to develop skills which are very useful later in life."

He is one of the 5% students who start their own business after having their diploma. Most ISTC graduates are absorbed in private industry. Tejinder says that everyone has jobs even before the course finishes. In the private industry the demand for trained manpower is very high and many of the students reach managerial levels. Some prefer to go abroad. "Skilled manpower is in great demand abroad and one can get a good visa if one has practical experience. The diploma is in very high demand and is recognised by many foreign countries."

The main advantage of the ISTC diploma is that one gets to work on sophisticated machines. "Since it was started with Swiss collaboration, the centre has high standards. There is emphasis on discipline and teaching technology. Finding more such centres are needed because there is a shortage of skilled manpower in the country. Industry requires people who have basic knowledge of machines", says Tejinder. He is not impressed with ITI graduates. "There is no discipline. It is with foreign collaboration so that they can fulfil the demand that exists in the market. At present they seem to run like government departments and are not efficient. Most ITI graduates who are in the export sector are not competitive."

The ISTC has 30 centres across the country. The centres are set up in different states and districts are engaged in the work. Tejinder feels that the government should take more interest in such centres. "The government should take more interest in such centres. They are running with a very small budget and are not getting the necessary funds. They are running with a very small budget and are not getting the necessary funds. They are running with a very small budget and are not getting the necessary funds."

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IAS (MAINS) SPECIAL

General Studies

Solved Questions from the Previous Years' General Studies Papers

✓ Q. 1. Distinguish between Parliamentary and Presidential forms of government. Do you think that changing over to the Presidential form will be a solution for better governance? Substantiate your answer. (About 250 words)

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1995)

Ans. In India we have adopted the British model of Parliamentary form of government while USA has chosen the Presidential form. The main differences between the two are as under:

(a) Under the Presidential form of government, the President is elected directly by the electorate i.e. the entire country elects the President by a direct election, while President in a Parliamentary system prevailing in India is elected by an indirect election.

(b) President is the executive head in a Presidential system, while the Prime Minister enjoys this position in a Parliamentary system.

(c) Under a Parliamentary form of government, the Prime Minister and other Ministers have to first get elected as Members of Parliament and leader of the Lower House is chosen as the Prime Minister, who in turn selects his team of Ministers from amongst the members of both the Houses

of Parliament. In case of a Presidential form of government, the President chooses his own Secretaries (Ministers) who need not be members of Parliament and are chosen from amongst the eminent persons in the field concerned

(d) In case of Parliamentary form, the choice of ministers is restricted to the members of Parliament while there is no such limit in case of Presidential form of government where the President is free to choose out of any eminent persons whom he finds appropriate.

(e) In a Parliamentary form of government, the party to which the Prime Minister belongs must enjoy the confidence of the Lower House. Such a situation may not be necessary under a Presidential government where the Political party to which the President belongs, may not be having the confidence of the Lower House of the Parliament.

With the ongoing spell of minority governments in the country, often it is argued that most of our political problems would be over if we switch over to the Presidential form of government. It

is also pleaded that the Parliamentary system had failed to deliver goods in India and it must be replaced by a Presidential form of government for ensuring better governance in the country. Such a system, it is advocated, would not have to depend upon clear majority to a party in the Parliament and such a government would be more responsive to the needs of the people. Moreover, the Legislature would only be doing Legislative work while the Executive would be devoting its full time in executing the laws and policies.

Superficially, the switchover proposal may appear to be quite attractive to a common man, who is thoroughly disillusioned by the political instability and corruption at high places. But a deeper analysis would reveal that the Presidential form of government

may create more problems than solving them. In a country like ours, plagued badly by the menace of corruption, it would be a disaster to have a corrupt President with a team of corrupt Secretaries around him. Moreover, autocratic tendencies among the leaders of developing countries may result in putting an autocrat leader at the helm of affairs, spelling a

catastroph for the country. In addition, judicially speaking, the Supreme Court of India may thwart such an attempt which would result in materially altering the "basic structure" of the Indian Constitution. Efforts, therefore, must be to strengthen the Parliamentary form of existing system rather than changing the entire system as such. A system which has served the country well for over four decades, may have to be modified slightly to meet the modern-day requirement, but the debate to alter and replace it is not only absurd but also impractical.

Q. 2. What is Greenhouse effect? What are its adverse effects on the Earth's environment? What steps are being taken to check the same? (About 250 words.)

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1995)

Ans. 2. Increasing threat to the environment of the earth is causing environmental pollution by a few poisonous gases. These gases, also called greenhouse gases, have threatened the very existence of human survival on earth. Most of these gases are the

This feature has been specially prepared to help the aspiring candidates of Civil Services (Mains) examination have an idea of type of questions that are asked in the General Studies paper and the way these questions are to be answered. October '97 issue will also incorporate questions from previous papers November '97 issue will carry expected questions. Readers are invited to send us any specific topic or question that they would like us to include in this feature

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**BATCHES
STARTING
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result of doings of the man himself. Pollution by industries, burning and motor vehicles has resulted in deterioration in the biodiversity of the Earth and has materially damaged the Ozone layer in the atmosphere. Ozone layer protects this earth from harmful ultra violet rays entering the atmosphere. But regular influx of green-house gases, including carbon-dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane and chlorofluoro-carbons, have destroyed the patches of ozone layer resulting in a "greenhouse effect". This greenhouse effect has resulted in appreciable global warming and the process of warming is picking up steadily. It has been found that during the past 100 years, the average global temperatures have risen by 1 degree Fahrenheit and another rise of 3 to 9 degree Fahrenheit is feared during the next about 50 years.

The greenhouse effect is certain to have adverse effects on the Earth's environment. To start with, the vast fresh water reserves in the form of unmelted snow in the Arctic and Antarctica would gradually begin to disappear. This would also increase the water level in oceans and submerge many areas. Moreover, the cycle of water is also going to be disturbed, causing shortage of clean water on the planet. The existing water cycle makes sure that during the hot summer, the snow melts and supplies water to the hot plains from high mountains. But the phenomena of global warming would result in premature melting of snow, thereby causing shortage of clean water during the summer. In addition, the greenhouse gases are also likely to affect the health of human beings, with the higher incidence of lung cancer, Tuberculosis, Bronchitis and Asthma. This would also affect the animal and plant life on earth and many species may face extinction over a longer period of time. In addition, vast areas of arable land may turn into deserts and huge areas under rainforests may be destroyed. The planet has already experienced some of these problems.

The humanity is greatly concerned about the greenhouse effect and its catastrophic consequences. Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, organised by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992, reflected the resolve of the humanity to combat the problems jointly. Many steps have already been taken while many others are underway. Population control is one of such steps. It is felt that it is mainly due to rapidly increasing population pressure that the environment is facing a serious threat. Use of modern equipment to control the emission of the pollutants is yet another method widely used. Invention of fuel-efficient vehicles and proper checks on the smoke emitted by the vehicles is also a step in this direction. Drive to protect green trees and to plant more trees is yet another example of the effort by the humanity to save itself. Overall economic development in the developing countries would certainly improve the economic conditions and literacy levels, which would in turn improve the general awareness about this aspect considerably.

Q. 3. "Mahatma Gandhi's success during 1916-20 in getting the technique of non-violent Satyagraha accepted by the

nation as a weapon of struggle against the British was phenomenal." Elucidate. (About 250 words.)

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1993)

Ans. 3. If one is asked to name one leader who could be held mainly responsible for India's freedom, name of Mahatma Gandhi would be quoted by most. Charisma of Mahatma Gandhi caught the fancy of millions of Indians, who identified him as a symbol of India's freedom. Gandhi's return from South Africa in 1915 was at such a time when the Indian masses were without a good leader. The period from 1916 to 1920 is said to be the period when Gandhi established himself as an outstanding leader of masses. His strongest weapon was non-violent "Satyagraha" which he developed, practiced and perfected during his stay in South Africa. Same technique he successfully adopted in India. He not only practiced Satyagraha but also made the entire nation accept this miraculous weapon against the exploitation and repression.

Strength of Gandhi's technique of Satyagraha was in its mass appeal. Might of the British was well known. Their awe-inspiring police and military and its armaments were so enormous that even other world powers dared not to challenge them, what do talk of unarmed and starved Indians. People of India knew that they were no match to the British so far as their destructive power was concerned and could not possibly win a war against them. Hence, Gandhi's non-violence acted as antidote and provided them with a strong moral weapon, which cost nothing but the will-power. Moreover, before the advent of Mahatma Gandhi on the political scene of India, no other leader either tried to identify with masses nor tried to involve the masses in the struggle for independence. His unique role in the national movement was to mobilise the masses for the benefit of the national cause. His target groups for mobilisation of masses were the depressed classes and women. In addition, he specifically worked for Hindu-Muslim unity, as he could realise that only united Indians could throw away the Britishers.

Through his preachings of truth and non-violence—the two basic features of all the religions—Gandhi could integrate all the religions of India towards the national cause. Moreover, although Gandhi had studied law in England and worked in South Africa, and was largely British in his appearance and behaviour when he came to India in 1915, he moulded his lifestyle in truly Indian manner. His clothes, food, living habit, etc. were similar to that of a common Indian. He set up Sabarmati Ashram at Ahmedabad in 1916 and led a simple life. The strongest point in Gandhi's personality, which attracted masses towards him, was that he practised whatever he preached.

Gandhi's initial success with Satyagraha at Champaran, and the resounding success of non-cooperation movement, made Indians accept Satyagraha as a mighty weapon. It resulted in a war of morality against might. So phenomenal was the rise of this weapon that against all the atrocities, the freedom movement all over the country remained non-violent. For the British, it became difficult to deal with non-violent Satyagrahis.

Q. 4. What are Zonal Councils? Discuss their constitu-

tion, role and importance in achieving inter-State comity. (About 250 words.)

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1992)

Ans. 4. As per Article 263(a) of the Constitution, the President may set up inter-State Councils for advising upon any inter-State disputes, investigating and discussing the subjects on which one or more States, or States and the Centre have a common interest. Zonal Councils, on the other hand, have not originated from the Constitution, but owe their existence to an Act of the Parliament. Established by the States Reorganisation Act 1956, these councils are of advisory nature and aim at securing cooperation and coordination between the States. When the States were created on the linguistic basis, these councils were a logical outcome. With a view to keep cultural and linguistic harmony on the one hand, and serving their common interest by cooperative action on the other, the Zonal Councils are supposed to act as a common meeting ground for the representatives of partner States.

A Zonal Council is supposed to consist of the Chief Minister and two other ministers from each of the State and Union Territory (UT) comprised in a zone. Union Home Minister is the common Chairman of all the five Zonal Councils. Central Zonal Council consists of the States of U.P. and M.P., while the Northern Zonal Council consists of the States of Punjab, Haryana, J & K, Rajasthan, H.P. and the UTs of Delhi and Chandigarh. Similarly, Eastern, Western and Southern Zones consist of the States & UTs in the respective zones.

Zonal Councils have been assigned the role of developing a habit of cooperative working among the member States. It is also felt that the Zonal Councils foster the federal feeling, thereby promoting the national integration, without undermining the authority and autonomy of State governments. Further, the role of Zonal Councils is to promote cooperation, coordination and social and economic development. Encouragement of cultural affinity between the States of a particular zone as well as amongst the zones is yet another broad role assigned to the Zonal Councils. Zonal Councils also discuss the matters of common concern to the States and Territories in every zone. Issues like economic and social planning, inter-State disputes, inter-State transport and giving advice to the State governments as well as the Union government also fall within the purview of Zonal Councils.

Although the Zonal Councils are not Constitutional bodies like Inter-State Councils, yet they do have a legal status provided by the legislative force behind them. In fact, every federal State must have a mechanism to enhance inter-State comity and this mechanism in India is provided by the Inter-State Councils and the Zonal Councils. It may not be possible for the provinces in a federal State to remain absolutely aloof and independent of each other. All the States necessarily have to depend on others for cultural, social and economic matters. Zonal Councils in India, thus are an important instrument towards achieving this broad objective.

But despite the provisions to have Zonal Councils, these institutions have gone to the background. Without any teeth or the force of law to get their decisions implemented the provisions for

Zonal Councils has remained more of formal organisations. For resolving inter-State disputes, the Centre has either been appointing tribunals or the States have been taking resort to legal course. The novel idea of having Zonal Councils, has thus not been able to come up to the expectations of the framers of the Reorganisation Act.

Q. 5. Answer the following: (Answer to each question should be in about 150 words)

(a) Besides the Directives contained in part IV, there are certain other Directives addressed to the State in other parts of the Constitution. What are they?

(b) Explain the scope of advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India.

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1992)

Ans. 5. (a) Part IV of the Constitution contains Directive Principles of the State Policy. Contained in Articles 36-51, these principles are the ideals which the State should strive for, and some directions to the State Executive and Legislature as to how their powers be used. Besides these Directives there are a few other Directives addressed to the State in other parts of the Constitution, which, like the Directive Principles are also non-justiciable. These are as under.

(i) Article 350A directs the State to take steps to provide adequate facilities for instructions in the mother-tongue of the children at the primary stage of education, particularly to the children belonging to the linguistic minorities, mainly with a view to preserve their language and facilitate better understanding among such children.

(ii) Article 351 of the Constitution enjoins the Union to promote the spread of Hindi language and to develop it so that it appears as a medium of expression in a country like India having diverse culture and languages.

(iii) Article 335 requires the State to take into consideration the claims of the members of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, in making appointment to the services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or a State. But such consideration should be consistent with the maintenance of efficiency in administration. It is this very provision under which the government has decided to make special provisions like reservation for these categories in services or admission to the educational institutions.

The above three Directives are not contained in part IV of the Constitution, yet these are read with the Directive Principle contained in Articles 36 to 51 of the Constitution and are supposed to draw similar attention of the State.

Ans. 5.(b) In addition to the original, writ and appellate jurisdiction, the Supreme Court of India also enjoys an advisory jurisdiction. Article 43 of the Constitution prescribes that the Supreme Court of India may be required to express its opinion in two classes of matters in an advisory capacity, as against its judicial capacity, as under:

(i) At the first place, any question of law may be referred to the apex court by the President, if he considers that the said ques-

tion is of such public importance that it is urgent to obtain its opinion. In such matters, the Supreme Court would not be called upon to adjudicate upon any matter but to give the constitutional validity or otherwise the explanation of any clause contained in the Constitution. The opinion of the Supreme Court is not binding upon the government. The opinion is only of advisory nature and gives an authoritative legal opinion to the government on intricate legal and constitutional questions. It has been held in one of the Supreme Court orders that it is entitled to decline to answer any reference, if such a reference was considered to be superfluous or unnecessary.

(ii) Second category of cases pertain to the disputes arising out of the Constitutional treaties and agreements which are excluded by Article 131, when such disputes cannot be referred to the Supreme Court as litigation. These may be referred to by the President for the opinion of the Supreme Court in its advisory capacity. The Supreme Court, thus, also acts as principal advisor to the President and upto 1995, nine such cases had been referred to the Supreme Court by the President.

Q. 6. Answer the following: (Answer to each question should be in about 150 words)

(a) What are the main sources of short-term and long-term finances for Indian Industries?

(b) Explain the term, "Integrated Rural Development" bringing out its strategic importance.

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1992)

Ans. 6. (a) Industrial sector in India has assumed great importance today India's achievements of obtaining over 6 per cent growth of the GDP during the previous two five-year plans and target of achieving 7 per cent growth rate during the Ninth Five-Year Plan are primarily based on outstanding strides made by the industrial sector. It is mainly due to stepped up investment, both domestic as well as foreign, that rapid growth in the industrial sector has been made possible. Higher investment and financing for working capital are, in turn, dependent on many sources of finance available to the industrial sector.

Main sources of short-term finance to the industrial sector are many. One of the important short-term source is internal source where the industrialists, shareholders or other equity holders may provide short-term credit to the industries. With-holding the dividend temporarily may be yet another internal source of financing. In addition, increasing number of public sector as well as private banks offer cash-credit limits as well as other types of short-term loans to the industrial sector for the purchase of raw material, processing, storage and despatch to the market. For the purpose of exports, short-term loan is provided by the EXIM Bank. Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) also provides short-term funding to the industrial sector.

Long-term finances are planned by the industries well in advance. The industries have their ratio of debt-equity determined for themselves, keeping in mind the very nature of the industry and its operations. Hence, the industry may plan to raise equity from the capital market or even borrow from the market in the

form of fixed deposits or bonds. Banks, however, remain one of the major sources of long-run financing. With the RBI removing many restrictions earlier imposed on the banks and making more money available for lending, the quantum of loanable funds has increased enormously. Foreign investment, joint ventures and technology up-gradation, foreign investment agreements, etc provide yet other important sources of financing to the industries. IDBI and ICICI also provide long-run finances for investment to the industries. For the small scale sector Khadi Boards in the States provide funds. Financial corporations operating in most of the States also provide long-run finances. There are also government organisations/institutions which provide long-run finance to some specific industries in the field of Horticulture, Agriculture, small scale industries and also to the special groups like Ex-servicemen, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, etc. This multi-pronged approach has been adopted to ensure that adequate long-run finances are available to all sections of industries at all times of the year.

Ans. 6 (b) The term "Integrated Rural Development" (IRD) means an integrated approach for economic development in the rural areas by the government. The concept of economic development for rural areas was made integrated during the 5th Five-Year Plan in India, and it still continues as such. The premier economic development programme, IRDP (Integrated Rural Development Programme) was introduced when it was realised that the "trickle down" theory had not worked in India and the benefits of economic development had not adequately trickled down to the rural poor. With a view to launch a "frontal attack" on the rural poverty, IRDP was introduced.

Strategic importance of integrated rural development lies in the fact that each and every person living below the poverty line has been identified. Poverty line has been defined in terms of intake of calories by the individuals, which is converted in monetary terms from time to time on the presumption of a family unit of five persons. While the basic unit of beneficiaries is a family, key agency to implement the programme is the development block. The identified poor families are provided with income generating assets through a loan-subsidy package, enabling them to raise their current income levels substantially and finally cross the poverty line.

The programme being integrated in nature, has many other components. The houseless SC/ST families are provided with houses under Indira Awas Yojana and Gandhi Kutir Yojana. In addition, unemployed youth are provided with training under a programme called TRYSEM (Training Rural Youth for Self Employment) and then rehabilitated in the trade of their training. Women belonging to SC/ST poor families are grouped in DWCRA (Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas) Groups and are encouraged to indulge in economic activities and earn additional income, over and above the family occupation. In addition, there are other schemes like PMRY (Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana), SEUY (Self Employment for Urban Youth), EAS (Employment Assurance Scheme), JRY (Jawahar Rozgar Yojana) etc. which aim at providing self-employment or wage employment to the

unemployed persons belonging to the identified rural poor families. Recently, the government introduced TPDS (Targetted Public Distribution Scheme) under which the poor families would be getting essential commodities at highly subsidised rates

Q. 7. Answer the following questions from Groups A, B and C below: (Answer to each question should be in about 25 words)

Group A.

- (a) What is NABARD and what is its main role?
- (b) What are Mutual Funds? Do we have such funds in India?
- (c) What are economic offences? Name two such offences and the laws enacted in India to deal with them
- (d) What is meant by population explosion? Has it occurred in India?

Group B.

- (a) Distinguish between a starred question and an unstarred one asked in the Parliament
- (b) How is breach of Parliamentary Privilege different from Contempt of the House?
- (c) "There are certain spheres where Rajya Sabha alone has the authority." What are they?

Group C.

- (a) Give the names of three missiles developed by India under the Integrated Guided Missiles Development Programme. Briefly mention their capabilities.
- (b) What is ultrasound? State two of its uses in modern medical practice
- (c) What is "Computer Virus"? What are its effects? Is there a remedy?

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1989)

Ans. 7.

Group A.

(a) NABARD stands for National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. Its main role is to refinance various loans advanced by the banks in the field of development of agriculture and rural development. NABARD is responsible for the development of these two broad sectors in India by ensuring adequate availability of credit.

(b) Mutual Funds are the financial institutions which mainly resort to medium and long-term deposits from its members. The interest paid by Mutual Funds is higher in the form of dividends and bonus. The amount mobilised by a mutual fund is invested in the capital market by security experts employed by these mutual funds. It is because of better management and investment of the Fund that these Funds pay higher return to their members, as these Funds earn higher dividends and returns. In India, Mutual Funds do exist. Almost all leading public sector banks have initiated a Mutual Fund each.

(c) Economic offences are the offences which are committed in violation of any provisions of economic Acts. One of such offences could be resort to a restrictive trade practice by a business house, which is punishable under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act (MRTPA) and second example could be for-

eign exchange regulation violation under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA).

Group B.

(a) A starred question asked in the Parliament warrants an oral reply from the concerned Minister, on which supplementary questions are allowed to be asked. Unstarred question, on the other hand, is replied in writing and laid on the "table of the House" and no supplementaries are allowed on an unstarred question.

(b) Any act or omission which obstructs or impedes either House of Parliament in performance of its functions, or obstructs or impedes any member or officer of any House in discharge of duties, or even has a tendency to do so, is termed as contempt of the House. On the other hand, any breach of Parliamentary Privileges like freedom from arrest, exemption from attendance as witness or freedom of speech, is termed as breach of Parliamentary Privilege.

(c) There are three spheres in which the Rajya Sabha alone has the authority. These are as under:

(i) If a State legislature declares and empowers by two-third majority, the Parliament to legislate on any subject contained in the State List, only Rajya Sabha may pass a legislation on the subject. But this can be done only when it is necessary or expedient in the national interest under Article 249 of the Constitution.

(ii) Parliament may make laws providing for creation of one or more All India Services, only if the Rajya Sabha declares by resolution, supported by at least two-third members present and voting, that it is necessary or expedient in the national interest to do so. This special power to Rajya Sabha is provided in Article 312 of the Constitution.

(iii) Even though an amendment to the Constitution is approved by the Lok Sabha, under Article 368(2) of the Constitution, the amendment cannot take effect unless the Rajya Sabha also approves the amendment. The examples of 43rd Amendment Bill, 64th and 65th Amendment Bills, which could not be passed due to their failure to get approval of the Upper House, can be quoted to support this.

Group C.

(a) Three missiles developed by India are *Prithvi* (surface to surface missile), *Akash* (surface to air missile) and *Nag* (anti-tank missile system). *Prithvi* has a range of 150 kms to 250 kms and can be used by the Army as well as the Air Force for its Air Defence System. This short-range surface-to-surface missile has already been inducted into the Indian Army. *Akash*, on the other hand, is a multi-target medium range (25 kms) surface to air guided missile. It has automatic launch and tracking system. *Nag* is a third generation anti-tank missile system for deployment on armoured tracked vehicles and helicopters.

(b) Ultra-sound or Ultra-sonic waves are used in the modern medical science very frequently now and have revolutionised the medical science. Human ear cannot hear the sounds of frequencies higher than 20,000 vibrations per

second. With the use of these ultrasonic vibrations, the ultrasound is used for viewing the internal organs like kidneys, pancreas, gall bladder, urinary tract, etc. In addition, ultrasound is also used for pulverising stones in urinary tract and the gall bladder through a technique called Lithotripsy, thereby avoiding surgery.

(c) Computer viruses are small malicious computer programmes which infect other programmes by secretly attaching with them. They can spread to other programmes and computers automatically. Their effects range from flashing of a message to seriously affecting computer operations and destroying completely the information stored in the memory. The remedy lies in restricting the use of floppies, restricting the outsiders to use the computers and by restricting interface and linking with other/affected computers.

Q. 8. (a) Mention, in each case, the most appropriate diagram to represent the following data:

(i) Distribution of number of candidates according to the number of marks scored by each at an examination

(ii) Total value of country's exports and imports during the years 1985 to 1994.

(iii) Annual turnover of manufacturing Company during ten years.

(iv) Distribution of actual outlays in different public sectors during the last five-year plan

(b) The following table gives the distribution of life times of 400 electric bulbs:

Lifetime (in Hours)	Number of Bulbs
300—399	14
400—499	46
500—599	58
600—699	76
700—799	68
800—899	62
900—999	48
1000—1099	22
1100—1199	06

Find (i) The percentage of bulbs whose life times are at least 500 but less than 1000 hours.

(ii) The percentage of bulbs with life times of at least 900 hours.

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1995)

Ans. 8. (a) The appropriate diagram to represent the given data would be as under:

- Bar diagram/Histograms
- Multiple Bar-diagrams/Percentage Bar-diagrams
- Frequency graph/Histograms
- Pie diagram.

Ans. 8. (b) To answer the question first we have to re-draw the given table.

No. of bulbs whose life times are at least 500 but less than 1000 = $58+76+68+62+48 = 312$ (As shown in Table above)

Percentage of bulbs whose life times are at least 500 but less

than 1000 hours.

$$\frac{312}{400} \times 100 = 78\%$$

No. of bulbs with life times of at least 900

$$= 48+22+6 = 76$$

Percentage of bulbs whose life time is at least 900

$$= \frac{76}{400} \times 100 = 19 \text{ per cent}$$

Q. 9. A medical report mentioned that 85 per cent of the residents of a village have been vaccinated against a disease and that 70 per cent escaped the disease. Nevertheless, the percentage of those who were vaccinated but who suffered from the disease was 5. Show that this report cannot be correct.

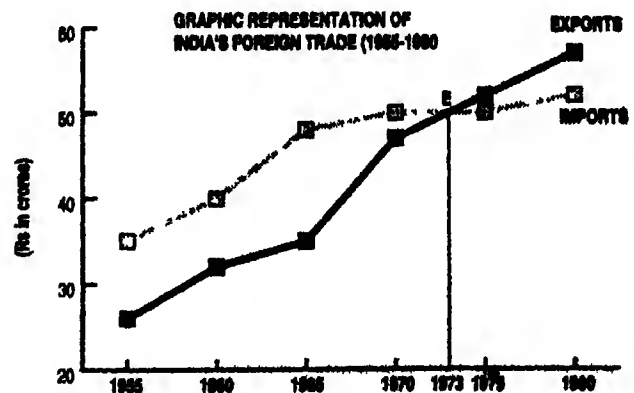
Ans. 9. The medical report cannot be correct. Whenever vaccination against a disease is administered, it protects the individual from the disease for entire life. Disease can only be caught had the vaccine been defective. Hence keeping in view the scientific explanation, the report that 5 per cent who were vaccinated but also caught disease cannot be correct. There is no mention of those who were not vaccinated and caught the disease

Q. 10. Represent the following data showing the value of exports and imports (in crore of Rupees) by a graph:

Year	Exports	Imports
1955	26	35
1960	32	40
1965	35	48
1970	47	50
1975	52	50
1980	57	52

Assuming the rate of growth of imports as well as exports to be uniform during each five-year period, find out the year after which the balance of trade became favourable.

(Civil Service (Main) Exam 1989)



Hence as per above year graph, the balance of trade become favourable in the year 1973 at point E.

Descriptive Questions

Disappearance of violence

Q. 'If violence disappears from the world.' Give three important consequences if such a situation comes about.

Ans. Violence violates (negates) the virtues of life and vitiates socio-political set-up of a civilised society. If by some miraculous metamorphosis in human psyche, violence disappears from our planet, the following candid consequences are bound to flow a touching turn in human destiny.

The first and foremost result of the new situation would be felt by women, children and other vulnerable sections of society where violence affects and aggravates the sufferings of such segments. In their lives, a new chapter would begin and they would feel and experience a different but a meaningful existence. The bullying tactics of the strong and the advantaged over the weak would vanish into the thin air. An atmosphere of equality, mutual respect for each other's sentiments and sensibilities would come to prevail under the changed social milieu.

The need to have sufficient number of law-enforcing agencies, with a view to curbing and controlling violence, would decrease substantially and the enormous funds saved on this account could be used for bettering the socio-economic lives of the people. Under the entirely changed scenario, litigation that results from violence, vituperation and violation of human rights, would go down considerably giving real relief, both to the aggressors as well as to the aggrieved.

Many emotional, mental and physical ailments that are the direct offshoot or fallout of violence, would see a drastic fall in their numbers. The fear psychosis that violence releases in all its intensity and ugliness

would start disappearing. Many a flower that gets crushed under the cruel wheel of violence would bloom. A new dawn would descend on the lives of those who have lived under the shadow of violence.

Improvement in power availability

Q. Suggest three effective measures to improve power position/availability in the country. Say how the measures suggested by you would be really result-oriented.

Ans. True to say that as consumers of electricity and other forms of fuels or energy, we have been living in a perpetual state of shortages of supply *vis-a-vis* their demand. With each passing day the problem has been getting more and more daunting. Needless to reiterate that without the availability of power in consonance with its demand on the agricultural and industrial fronts, we are unlikely to reap the full benefits of liberalisation. Since targets of production, marketing and exports are fixed well in advance, it becomes imperative that the regular supply of power, raw materials and other inputs are made available to industry and other mass consumers that are engaged in the production of goods and services. In order to improve the availability of generation of electricity in the years to come, the following measures will have to be taken.

The first preventive measures that is bound to increase the supply of power is to plug the loop-holes that lead to the losses of electricity during its transmission and distribution. Theft of power by small or big consumers should be detected as and deterrent penalties imposed on the culprits. The erring employees who abet in such

losses should be shown the door. The managements and bosses of the SEBs, who have been enjoying all types of perks and privileges, should be held responsible for all acts of omission and commission.

If, for want of adequate funds, the State governments are reluctant or unable to set up new power plants, the Corporate Sector, NRIs or even Multinational Companies should be invited to invest money in this sector. Neither rigid rules nor any uncalled for criticism by environmentalists should come in the way of new power plants in the private sector.

Last, but not the least, India must complement its energy demands with non-conventional sources like natural gas, nuclear power, sun, wind, bio-gas and agricultural residues like bagasse and paddy husk. Studies have revealed that India has the potential of generating 1,08,000 MW of power from non-conventional sources. This is exclusive of the vast solar energy that India, as a tropical country, can benefit from. Another study estimates about 1000 MW of power that can be generated from urban and municipal waste alone, besides the 700 MW from the industrial waste.

Unsafe Indian Roads

Q. Some people think that driving on Indian roads is quite unsafe. Express your views on the observation based on your reading, experience and knowledge.

Ans. The fact that more people die on Indian roads in a year than all the casualties put together resulting from natural disasters or calamities, should cause concern and prick the conscience of those who sit at the helm of affairs and still fail to tackle or grapple with the problem. In

no developing, or even developed country, where the number of vehicles is much larger and their frequency on the roads is much higher, the number of accidents is as high as we have in India. Ironically enough, after every heart-rending accident on a national or regional highway, across the manned or unmanned railway crossing and the like, a routine low-level enquiry is held and more often than not its report is consigned to oblivion as the dead bodies are consigned to flames or to the earth.

The description that Indian roads are 'death traps' is not an exaggerated view of some cynic or the victim of a road mishap. 'Only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches' should be applicable to the condition of Indian roads, which are unsafe for all types of users, and more particularly for the pedestrians who are always under the threat of being sandwiched between the fast-moving vehicles and the narrow but highly pot-holed roads. Many a time, drivers or others plying vehicles on the roads, seem possessed by a 'death-wish'. In a bid to overtake others, especially on bridges or blind curves, they hit the railings and roll down the ravines or flowing rivers, canals or streams. The results of such reckless driving are there for all to see.

The news about the wiping out of entire families on their way to some marriage function or religious congregation as a result of their vehicles meeting a fatal accident on the roads, sends chilling sensations down the spines. But it is a matter of regret that we do not learn lessons from such tragedies. Quite often, for no fault of theirs, the hapless sleepers on the pavements of megapolis like Delhi, Calcutta or Bombay, get crushed under the wheels of trucks or buses because their drivers are found to be over-worked or over-drunk.

The way driving licences are issued to every 'Tom, Dick and Harry', for love or for money, speaks volumes about the casual and the cavalier manner in which our administration is functioning. Under the prevailing circumstances, the officialdom has to realise that the need to give up the *Chalta Hai* attitude in respect of safety norms on the roads is required urgently.

"Why don't we have a culture of safety instead of allowing a culture of fatality hovering over our heads" is a question that should stir us to think and act in the right direction.

Reservations and Social Justice

Q 'Reservations have failed to achieve the goal of social justice' Give two arguments in favour and two against the critical comment on the policy of reservations.

Arguments in favour of the comment

1 The advocates of the policy of reservations may find the comment unpleasant and unsavoury but the ground realities of the Indian situation speak eloquently in favour of the correctness of the observation. The road to development and distributive justice, especially among the underdogs and the vulnerable sections, is a long one and any attempt to achieve the goal of social justice through ad hoc methods and short cuts like reservations is bound to meet half-baked success. Our experience till today has been that reservations instead of ushering in an era of equality, and of empowerment for the downtrodden, has created more social tensions and new classes of elite.

2 Once again the socio-political atmosphere is hot with the tall talk of reservations for women in the elected bodies like State legislatures, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The proposal to reserve one-third of these seats for women with a view to empower them and improve their social standing has created more complications and controversies than feelings of elation and euphoria, even among the advocates of such an important measure. Where is the guarantee that 'reservations' for women would bring about the desired changes in the lives of millions who toil day and night and yet are treated second-class citizens in our homes? Of course, reservations would confer some powers and privileges on those who would sit in the elected houses, but as has happened in the earlier reservations, the goal of improvement and equality in women's lot at large may still remain a pipe dream—rather a mirage.

Arguments against the comment

1 No policy, however popular or populist, is a magic wand to transform the face and fate of millions and millions who have lived under subjugation and socio-economic discrimination for centuries. The founding fathers of the Constitution were men of vision and wisdom and their concern to uplift the most exploited was beyond any doubt, a genuine one. If they were committed to raise the living conditions of the underprivileged and the dispossessed through reservations, they were absolutely justified in their outlook and approach. If some aberrations have developed during implementation of the policy of reservations, they should be rectified. It would be the height of absurdity to throw the baby along with the bath water.

2 Every thinking person knows that deprivation of centuries cannot go in a few decades. Provision of reservations for those who have remained dispossessed and discriminated against for ages, is an earnest attempt to remedy the malady that has eaten into the vitals of Indian society. Let the 'haves' in minority and the 'have nots' in majority become bitter enemies of each other and tear apart the fragile fabric of Indian polity. The policy of reservations for the pursuit of social justice for all deserves to be extended even to those sections that are still deprived of the fruits of development.

TOPICAL ESSAYS

(For candidates appearing in I.A.S., P.C.S. & other higher grade Exams.)

by
A Panel of Experts

KHANNA BROTHERS
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PARAGRAPH-WRITING

Model Paragraphs

"Uneasy lies the head that wears the Crown"

If the crown on the head of a King or a commoner symbolises pelf, power and prestige, it also indicates an odd assortment of problems and pin-pricks. Kingship means comforts and luxuries coupled with upheavals and uncertainties. To an ordinary onlooker, the ruler is always born with a silver spoon in his mouth and no trouble or trauma visits upon him. But this assessment is too simple to be accepted without raising many a question. No doubt, a benevolent ruler endears himself to the people, but in the hearts of his heart, he is always worried about the welfare of his people. In the event of some calamity, he loses his sleep because of his inability to meet the situation squarely and come up to the expectations of the victims. A conscientious ruler suffers the qualms of his conscience when things go wrong. For him life is not a bed of roses or a sweet song. The moments of unease and tension far outnumber the thrill of adulation and admiration that he sees among his people for his unique status and stature. A ruler has to cope with all sorts of developments that may threaten his life or texture or both.

"If winter comes can spring be far behind?"

—Shelley

Life is a mixed bag of joys and sorrows, ups and downs. It should not surprise us to see the changing pattern of nature, holding out the nectar as well as nuisance for us. The message of destruction and re-birth is always writ large on the canvas that time and space unfolds. Just as no winter is permanent, similarly no spring is infinite. It is the human psyche that has to see the silver-

lining in every dark cloud and find in the desolation around, the seeds of new life and laughter. Just as optimism is the tenor and tonic of human concepts and perceptions, in the same vibrant vein spring is the manifestation of vital and vigorous life that nature presents in the fulsome feast of colours and fragrances. A cynic may lose heart and harp on the strength of negative forces but none can stop the march of resurgent revival of life that spring symbolises. Winter as a carrier of woe and worries may have its day but it is the hope and hilarity of spring that lasts longer.

"Old order changeth yielding place to new"

Change, though inconvenient, is inevitable in every order—whether it is human, social or natural. If this were not so, life in all its parameters and perceptions would have become stagnant and stinking. Any order—good, bad or even indifferent—has to obey the laws of change and nothing can escape the onslaught of transformation or metamorphosis. Any talk of change from one system to the other is often met with resistance by vested interests. From tradition to modernity and from orthodoxy to scientific temper, no change in people's mores and moods is without pain and opposition. Evolution is an elegant form of change which people accept with grace and gratitude. Anything that upsets the apple cart with a bang may not prove as fruitful and satisfying as the change that is gradual and gracious. History is full with instances where even the benevolent monarchs had to make way for more liberal and democratic form of governments, because even a good custom or tradition tends to lose its charm and

becomes corrupt in the hands of the cunning and the crafty. As human beings we should take all changes in their stride and try to weed out the rotten and rabid from our lives.

"War is the child of pride and pride the daughter of riches."

—Swift

Riches, pride and war make a tortuous triangle, with each one of the three constituents devising dubious designs to push the world order to the brink of despair and disaster. If riches turn the head, and sows the seeds of pride, war brings about senseless sorrows and sufferings. The one follows the other like smoke coming out of fire. Inflated ego and the sinister sibling of riches is as harmful to the socio-economic health of a polity, as war. The deadly offshoot of pride is for everything that stands for progress and prosperity. Working in close conspiracy, all the three—riches, pride and war—inflict untold misery on the innocent and unsuspecting. They create a wide wedge between the heavy weights and the helpless. It is always the rich and affluent who are greedy by nature and proud by consequence. Excess of money fuels the fire of pride which in turn feeds, violence and virulence among the greedy rich. If the history of wars, big and small, is analysed properly, the only conclusion that one would arrive at is that the trio of riches, pride and war are complementary as well as supplementary to each other. For each one of them, the sadistic satisfaction of the ego is the only end in sight. If people could control their greed for riches, pride would not play its naked dance of war and human beings would be spared the ravages of death and destruction.

Questions on Social and Economic Problems

Q. Evaluate the schemes formulated for the development of scheduled tribes in India. Which types of schemes are needed to integrate these scheduled tribes into the mainstream of the society?

Ans. According to the 1991 census, the population of scheduled tribes in India was about 67.7 million, which is 8.08% of the country's total population. India has the second largest tribal population in the world, only next to Africa. About two-thirds of the total tribal population of the country is found in the five States of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, Gujarat and Maharashtra. There are three States (Rajasthan, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh) where tribes with more than 20 lakh population are found.

Most of the tribals live in isolated terrains and the main source of their livelihood is normally agriculture or gathering of forest products. However, mostly they do not cultivate these for profit; they still depend upon the barter system. A great part of their earnings get spent on social and religious ceremonies. These tribals are mostly illiterate and are victimised by unscrupulous forest contractors and money-lenders.

In India, tribal development has been based on a two-pronged approach: (a) promotion of development activities to raise the level of living of the scheduled tribes, and (b) protection of their interests through legal and administrative support. There were tribal sub-plans evolved for the tribal development projects during Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974-79) and according to the 1991 census, these schemes cover 19 States/Union Territories and 372 lakh tribal population. The plans were implemented through 184 Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDPs) covering 73 primitive

tribes. The financial resources for the sub-plans are drawn from State plans, special central assistance (by the Ministry of Welfare), Central Ministries' programmes and institutional finance.

The 20-point programme also focussed attention on the development of scheduled tribes, including assisting the tribal families economically.

An important role is also played by the Tribal Research Institute, not only in the research and training of the tribals but also in the formulation of tribal sub-plans, project reports and their evaluation.

Tribals have not undergone a major improvement over the years. Their problems are of a different nature than what

*Solved Questions from RBI
Grade 'A' Examination for
Officers, 1997.*

people in cities or villages face. Hence, to integrate these people into the mainstream society, a gradual process of adjustment is needed. The following steps can help to some extent:

(a) A greater effort to involve them in occupational activities in the secondary and tertiary sectors.

(b) By and large, the development programmes implemented for tribals have been favourable to zamindars, landlords, money-lenders, forest contractors, and excise, revenue and police officials. Care should be taken to implement schemes which are directly beneficial to them and conducive to their style of living.

(c) There is inadequate development of banking facilities for the tribals which leads to excessive dependence of the tribals on money-lenders. Hence, banks ought to

be located to make finance easily available to them.

(d) 90% of the tribals are engaged in cultivation. However, most of them are landless and practice shifting cultivation. They should be helped in adopting new methods of cultivation.

(e) The unemployed and underemployed should be helped in finding secondary sources of earning by developing animal husbandry, poultry farming, handloom weaving and the handicrafts sector.

(f) To integrate them into normal society life, the communication networks should be strengthened. They need to be protected from leading an isolated life, away from towns and cities. A network of new roads should be made.

Q. Write short notes on the following:

(a) Importance of small scale industries

The importance of Small Scale Industries can be gauged by the fact that the Industrial Policy of 1956 had pointed out that these industries provide large-scale employment, they offer a method of ensuring a more equitable distribution of the national income and they facilitate an effective mobilisation of resources of capital and skill which might otherwise remain unutilised. Also, some of the problems that unplanned urbanisation tends to create would be avoided by the establishment of small centres of industrial production all over the country.

There is no doubt about the fact that from the point of view of generating employment and poverty alleviation, the scope of the village and small industries is much greater than that of the organised private sector. The total employment avail-

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You will learn many easy techniques to improve your memory in this course. Let me give brief summary of two such techniques here.

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Technique 2: Scientific research has proved that for better memory, we should take rest and not study continuously for hours. You will learn my technique "Rest Routine" to get maximum benefit from the rest. This technique relaxes you, changes your brain waves, and puts you in a "learning state".

"I got 84.4% in B.S.L.C. My previous 9th std results were only 70%. I am very thankful for your help. Previously, I was only 40% in Maths, but now it is 97%." — Mani Williams, Coimbatore, TN

Read Faster to Revise Faster

Everyone can learn to read and understand 300, 500 or more words per minute. But, many of us read only about 100 words per minute. My "Finger Technique" will double your speed in 60 minutes.

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 - > If you do not read aloud but hear the sounds in your mind when you read
 - > If you read one word at a glance rather than reading many words at a glance
 - > If, without your knowledge, you read some words again and again.

This course will help you to overcome these habits. The best use of reading faster is not to study new chapters for the first time, but to revise again and again quickly so that you can remember more in less

time. The "Finger Technique" helped me to increase my reading speed from 72 to 1037 words per minute. "I topped DAV College Chandigarh. I increased my reading speed from 303 to 1000 words per minute."

— Sandeep Dhill, Panchkula, Haryana

"Very useful for my BSc and ICWA exams. Within a single day, I increased my reading speed from 275 to 485 words per minute."

— B Jayaprakash, Madras, TN

"I am very happy to inform you that my son Ravi Anand increased his reading speed from 228 to surprisingly high 1818 words per minute. Thank you for your course."

— Dr M L Singh, MS Eye Surgeon, Bhubar

"Unbelievably, I improved my reading speed from 75 to 200 words per minute. My son (in class 4) improved his memory. He also improved his reading speed from 45 to 100."

— Prof M Bhattacharya, PhD, Formerly in USA



Proof of Benefit Our Students Set All India Memory Record

Our student **Ravi Chandra** has recently set a memory record (Lion's Book of Records). In interviews to many newspapers he said "The secrets of my newly developed memory are postal courses: Mind Power Study Techniques and Mind Power Music from the Mind Power Research Institute."

Before joining our course, he was an average student and scored only 52.3% in High School Exams. Ask yourself: If this course can help someone to set a new memory record, can it also help you to remember better, and use more mind power for success?

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2. Your effectiveness to read faster and learn will increase greatly
3. Increase in your ability to study longer without getting tired (body or mind) or feeling sleepy
4. You will experience that you are capable of achieving much more success than you currently do (even if you are already very good)
5. Small to moderate improvement in your intelligence
6. Set realistically high aims/goals and take you step by step on the road to achieve success
7. Improve writing, spelling, interview skills
8. Learn exam secrets to get more marks for what you have studied
9. Avoid big mistakes that can cause failure

Suppose you improve only 10% in each, then total improvement is $10\% \times 9 = 90\%$. I know you will improve 100% just in reading speed. So, this huge improvement will enormously help you for success. "I worked hard according to your techniques and improved. My parents are very happy. I had never before got distinction, but now I got 78% in Maths and 80% in Science."

— Parul Kumar, Noida, MB

Do you know that in competitions, just 1 or 2 more marks can turn failure into success? So, you should try to do everything possible to get each extra mark. One such thing you can do is to join this course.

You Also Learn These

In this course, you also learn other interesting, useful or advanced techniques/topics such as:

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6. Advanced memory techniques to remember long sequences, spellings, and complicated things
7. Interview techniques for self-confidence & success
8. Do not eat just before an exam
9. How examiners correct answer papers, and how to use this knowledge to get more marks
10. Mega-vitamins can increase your intelligence during exam-days
11. How for 2 common types of questions, can you fool the examiner and get more marks
12. Is it better to study early in the morning or late in the night
13. Do examiners give more marks if you write more pages

Author's Bio-Data

- B.E., BITS Pilani; M.Tech, IIT
- Kharagpur NTSE scholar. Rank & Raj School Board.
- World-famous author. I published 3 computer books in USA including a best selling book costing \$27.95.
- Expert: Computers, Mind Power, Study Techniques
- My first job as an engineer paid only Rs 1000 per MONTH. Just 7 years later, I earned 50 dollars per HOUR in USA as computer expert and writer.
- At the peak of success, I returned to India to do something in our own country. Now, I spend my full time as a scientist to do research in mind power.
- I also learnt French, Sanskrit, Karate, Breaking wooden board by hand, many Meditations, etc.
- Was a member of Society for Accelerated Learning & Teaching, USA.

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It includes a green poster of Bapna's *Optical Illusion™ Technique for Concentration* which was inspired by 5000-year old Tantric symbol of India called *Sri Yantra*.

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able in the organised private sector is of the order of 75 lakh persons. The village and small industries sector is expected to provide additional employment of more than 150 lakh persons. A particularly promising area in small industries is the handicrafts. Not only do they provide employment but also possess a high export potential. Exports of handicrafts had jumped from Rs 1700 crore to Rs 6400 crore during the Seventh Plan.

The proponents of this sector have also pointed out that the income generated in a large number of small enterprises is dispersed more widely in the community than income generated in a few large enterprises. People also say that the relations between the workers and the employers are more harmonious in small enterprises than in large enterprises.

Considering the employment and other factors, small enterprises need to be developed along with large enterprises. This is, in fact, the accepted policy of the government. Although there is a lot of weight in the employment argument, the fact also remains that inefficient enterprises should not be encouraged.

(b) Increasing Significance of Judiciary

The Judiciary is the third organ of the government. The legislature performs the function of making the law (legislating), the Executive is responsible for implementing or executing the law. The Judiciary has the responsibility of interpreting the law.

In the recent years, there has been a considerable deterioration of the political values in India. Gradually, there has been an increase of corruption in all spheres of life. Even though the legislature has been continuing its functions of law-making, many times this effort gets thwarted by selfish motives and corrupt attitudes of politicians. Similar interests prevent the Executive from implementing the law.

In such circumstances, when the legislature and the executive both have failed considerably in their functions, it is left for the Judiciary to take on the role of protector of law and also, to keep a check on the corrupt elements in the society.

In the USA also, the Judiciary has taken the role of the 'third chamber' in

society. In India, what is worth noting is that the Judiciary is so far acting within the framework of the Indian Constitution. In today's world, it has become important to have a check on the functioning of society. Hence the importance of the Judiciary.

Q. There have been many debates about environmental problems related with mining in our hilly regions. Enumerate some of them and briefly discuss their solutions.

Ans. Many of the mineral deposits in our country are found in forested hilly regions, where the environmental impact of mining is more severe than in the plains. This necessitates extra precautions to minimise the damage. Certain problems that can occur because of excessive or improper mining are:

1. **Deforestation, land damage and visual intrusion:** The mining that is conducted in our hilly areas leads to deforestation and baring of the ground. Moreover, the construction of access roads is an additional cause of deforestation. As the mining or construction activities increase, besides the personnel employed in the mining companies, there is also an increase in the ancillary operations of transport, material supply etc and also shopkeepers, milkmen, traders, priests, school teachers. Quite often, this leads to illegal felling of trees for fuel. This becomes another cause for deforestation.

2. **Landslide and Dumpslice:** Mining in steep hill slopes increases the risk of landslides. In many regions, the areas are tectonically highly disturbed, with the strata being subjected to numerous thrusts, folds and faults, steep ground slopes, jointed rocks and thick talus covers, making the area prone to landslides. Heavy rainfall, earthquake, as well as ground vibration due to blasting may also trigger a landslide in an unstable region.

3. **Changes in Hydrologic Regime:** In hilly areas, the infiltration rate remains high and water does not run off easily since the area is densely forested. This somehow increases the likelihood of flash floods. Moreover, a mine could withdraw a large quantity of water for its use and for do-

mestic use in the mine colony. This could upset the water balance in arid regions.

4. **Erosion and Siltation:** With the velocity of the running water, soil erosion greatly increases. For mining purposes, the land is deforested and bared of all vegetation, making condition suitable for quick erosion of the soil. Waste dumps formed on the hill sides also get easily eroded.

5. **Miscellaneous Environmental problems:** In areas where the mines support some ancillary industry nearby, a lime kiln or cement factory, the combined effect of the mine and the plant can cause some air pollution. Moreover, noise pollution is also a problem in the hills.

Possible Solutions

1. While planning mining in an area, it would be wise to have a minimum of deforestation by choosing right orientation of the access roads and location of infrastructure and support facilities such as workshops, dump yards etc. Also, the companies concerned should make an effort to reclaim the mined out areas and vegetate the waste dumps.

2. A precaution against dump slides would be to choose proper sites which are only gently dipping, then consolidate the dumps as they are placed; build them in the form of benches with terracing of the dump slopes; prevent water logging of the dump by having built in rock drains and vegetate the dumps quickly.

3. **Control of Erosion and siltation:** Erosion and siltation can be prevented with mine planning. In high rainfall areas, the water should be channelised from the zone above the mine and from the mine area to the streams in the valley. The surface of large dumps should be so graded so as to collect water in small shallow basins from where these should be guided down in properly constructed drains.

If these steps are taken, perhaps certain harms of present-day mining can be controlled and we can protect our environment.

Q. India's telecom sector is plagued by failures on many fronts. Discuss and give possible guidelines for a better policy.

Ans. In India, beyond the local tele-

phone services, India's telecom sector is plagued by failures on many other fronts such as high speed digital communications, satellite-based telecom etc. These are of great importance to business firms. Some of the problems that the sector faces are:

(i) The telecommunications services are unavailable to most of India's citizens. There are huge waiting lists. In 1995-96, there were only 1.3 telephones per hundred persons in India. This is only one sixth of that seen amongst other countries at India's level of GDP per capita.

(ii) Quite often, more connections are given than can be supported by the infrastructure. This results in poor quality.

(iii) The prices charged for local, long distance and international communications are extremely high as compared with world standards.

(iv) Problems in computer networking:

(a) The prices of leased lines and VSATs are around ten times above international standards.

(b) Small networks have been created in India but proper interconnection of various computer networks does not exist. Future benefits of networking cannot be realised.

(c) There is a restriction on the use of lines. Worldwide, small companies buy a few phone lines and establish "banks" through which users can dial in and obtain useful services such as messaging, information, access to free software etc. In India, the license fees for such services are very high.

(d) More important, VSNL's Internet services are enormously expensive as compared with international prices and are available in a few cities only.

Such impeding policies diminish the extent to which India's economy can obtain gains using modern communications and computer technology.

Guidelines that can help:

1. Interests of households and firms who use telecom services should be maximised.

2. While formulating telecom policies and guidelines, the panel should comprise experts. The panel should take care to look

after the interests of the consumers.

3. Low price interconnection facilities should be provided.

4. If possible, services like the e-mail, free or priced bulletin board services, Internet services, modern banks etc should remain outside the purview of government regulation.

5. Entry into long distance telecommunications should be abolished and entrants should be allowed to connect easily into existing networks.

6. Local telephone services should either use free entry or auctions should be used to allocate licenses to vendors who promise the lowest prices charged to end-consumers.

7. The government should ensure the growth of Internet in India. It has to be ensured that no monopolies develop, to see that India's Internet grows using public domain protocols and technologies. It also has to be ensured that service providers deliver interconnection to each other at low prices.

Besides these, there are a number of administrative and legal measures that would ensure the setting up of a telecom sector that would conform with these principles. The Rakesh Mohan Expert Group on telecom also suggested certain measures that can be taken. These can be incorporated as soon as possible.

Q. "What are the causes of drug abuse? What are the measures that can be taken to fight this social evil?"

Ans. Drug abuse is the use of illicit drug or misuse of legitimate drug resulting into physical or psychological harms. These could include smoking ganja or hashish, taking heroin or cocaine or LSD. Addiction implies physical dependence. Causes of drug abuse can be classified as under:

(a) **Psychological**—relieving tension, easing depression, removing inhibitions, satisfying curiosity, removing boredom, getting kicks, feeling high and confident and intensifying perception.

(b) **Social causes**—facilitating social experiences, being accepted by friends, and challenging social values.

(c) **Physiological causes**—staying

awake, heightening sexual experiences, removing pain and getting sleep.

(d) **Miscellaneous**—improving study, sharpening religious insight, deepening self-understanding and solving personal problems etc.

Measures to fight drug abuse and addiction

India has been facing the problem of increasing trafficking in drugs, especially transit traffic in respect of heroin and hashish from the Middle East region destined to Western countries. As a result of this transit traffic, metropolitan cities like Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras have also become vulnerable to drug trafficking. By and large, the profits generated by drug trafficking are used for financing politicians, developing lobbies in bureaucracy, judiciary, police, prisons and media, invested in shell corporations that take over legitimate business organisations, purchasing arms for terrorism.

Control over Drug Abuse has been undertaken through various Acts—The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, which came into force on November 14, 1985. Besides, the following measures can be taken:

(1) **Imparting education about drugs**—This is a very vital aspect in drug abuse control. It is necessary to educate not only college/university students but also people living in slums, industrial workers, truck drivers and rickshaw-pullers. Information that authoritatively talks about physical and psychological effects of the "mood-modifying" drugs, their pharmacological properties and their medical uses.

(2) **Physicians' attitude**—A change is necessary in the doctors' attitude of prescribing too many drugs. People depend too much on medication.

(3) **Undertaking follow up studies of addicts treated under detoxification programmes.**

(4) **Policemen or other law enforcers should be punished if they act in collusion with drug pedlars.**

Besides all these, parents should be encouraged to play a crucial role. Neglect, over-hostility, rejection, marital disharmony can perpetuate drug addiction and should be prevented.

MANAGEMENT

Business GK

Business Books

Match the famous business books with their authors.

Book	Author
I The Competitive Advantage of Nations	(a) Lester Thurow
II Megatrends Asia	(b) Al Ries & Jack Trout
III Beyond Reengineering	(c) Philip Kotler
IV The Future of Capitalism	(d) Michael Porter
V. Competing for the Future	(e) John Naisbitt
VI. Principles of Marketing	(f) Michael Hammer
VII. Positioning The Battle for your mind	(g) C K Prahlad

Business GK

1 Based on annual billings for 1996-97, the top three advertising agencies in India in order of their size, are

- (a) HTA, Mudra, O&M
- (b) HTA, Lintas, Mudra
- (c) Lintas, Mudra, O&M
- (d) HTA, Lintas, Rediffusion

2. Name the company which recently introduced a series of rapid fire launches in the convenience food segment:

- (a) Glaxo (b) Kellogg's
- (c) Hamdard (d) Dabur

3. The revenue tax department recently extended the service tax net to two additional services. Which are they?

- (a) Consulting engineers and manpower recruiting agencies
- (b) Advertising and public relations agencies
- (c) Management consultancy and advertising agencies
- (d) Audit companies and financial

consultancy agencies

4. Name the Indian economist who was recently appointed Master of Trinity College, Cambridge:

- (a) Manmohan Singh
- (b) Kaushik Basu
- (c) Amartya Sen
- (d) None of these

5 Name the company in which the Bachchans' stake is being sold off to meet the losses in ABCL:

- (a) Sky Television
- (b) Sun Television
- (c) Abbott Laboratories
- (d) Ipca Laboratories

6. Which company says, "For the smart, things go smoothly" in its advertisement?

- (a) VIP (b) Aristocrat
- (c) Raymond's (d) None of these

7. Who is the Union Industry Minister?

- (a) Salman Kshurshid
- (b) CM Ibrahim
- (c) Murasoli Maran
- (d) None of these

8. Vision 2002, an exercise to assess its competitive position in different categories, has been initiated by which business group?

- (a) Tata Industries
- (b) AV Birla Group
- (c) Larsen & Toubro
- (d) Coca Cola

9. In the market for disposable contact lenses, which company is the leader, with 70% share?

- (a) Ciba Vision
- (b) Johnson & Johnson
- (c) Bausch & Lomb
- (d) None of these

10. Where in India is the largest Information Technology (IT) park in Asia being planned?

- (a) Mohali (b) Bangalore
- (c) Mumbai (d) Hyderabad

11. Which company has recently launched products with the brand names

of 'Sonnet' and 'Vector.'

- (a) Symphony (b) Parker
- (c) Carrier (d) Luxor

12. Which car was India's first indigenously manufactured car?

- (a) Maruti (b) Padmini
- (c) Baby Hindustan (d) Ambassador

13. What is the Japanese term for 'death from over-work', which has claimed several lives in that country?

- (a) Hara Kiri (b) Karoshi
- (c) Minseng (d) None of these

14. Which airline is talking about itself when it says in its advertisements: "Just when I'd started enjoying the wait, their flights seem always on time"?

- (a) Air India (b) Indian Airlines
- (c) United Airlines
- (d) British Airways

15. The statutory liquidity ratio for non-banking finance companies, as lowered by the RBI recently, is:

- (a) 14% (b) 13.5% (c) 12% (d) 10%

16. Ravi Gupta, who died at 59 recently, was the founder of a leading advertising agency of India. Name the agency that he founded:

- (a) Rediffusion (b) Trikaya Grey
- (c) Mudra (d) Ulka

17. Which company tied up with ABCL for in-film advertising in their film, *Mrityudata*?

- (a) Liberty (b) Coke
- (c) Cadbury Shweppes
- (d) Tips

18. Javed Akhtar has been featured in the advertisements for "Fighter" brand of pens. Name the company that owns the brand:

- (a) Reynold's (b) Luxor
- (c) Rotomac (d) None of these

19. Maruti recently recalled 50,000 cars because of a defective part. Which company had supplied the defective part?

- (a) Purolator (b) Sona Steering
- (c) Talbro (d) None of these

20. Which brand of clothing advertises itself as "Friday Dressing"?
 (a) Color Plus (b) Levi's (c) Arrow (d) Allen Solly
21. Who is the famous author who held seminars in Mumbai and Delhi recently offering advice packaged in his 14 books called *Chicken Soup for the Soul*?
 (a) Jack Canfield (b) Phil Cosby
 (c) Al Trout (d) None of these
22. Which country is the largest consumer of gold in the world?
 (a) USA (b) India (c) China (d) South Africa
23. Which company of the Tata group recently changed its name?
 (a) Tata Tea (b) TOMCO
 (c) Tata Power (d) Tata Information Systems
24. On the basis of amount managed in 1996-97 by them, the country's top three merchant bankers, in order of their rank, are
 (a) Kotak Mahindra, ANZ Grudlays, Citibank
 (b) SBI Caps, IDBI, ICICI
 (c) SBI Caps, JM Financial Services, Kotak Mahindra
 (d) IDBI, Citibank, SBI Caps
25. Which agency is behind the latest Air India campaign?
 (a) HTA (b) Ogilvy and Mather
 (c) Mudra (d) Enterprise Nexus
26. The committee to make recommendations for the rupee convertibility on the capital account, appointed by the RBI, was headed by:
 (a) S.S. Tarapore (b) G.Y. Ramakrishna
 (c) Vijay Kashyap (d) None of these
27. Which company has recently changed its logo and now has the punchline "Eat Healthy, Think Better"?
 (a) Modern Food Industries (b) Parle
 (c) Britannia (d) Nestle
28. The brand Horlicks is owned by which group?
 (a) Jagatjit Industries (b) Smithkline Beecham
 (c) Cadbury's (d) None of these
29. Which brand is advertised as "The best a man can get"?
 (a) Van Huesen (b) Old Spice
 (c) Gillette (d) Levi's
30. The Onida campaign has created history by showing the devil. Which agency created the campaign?
 (a) Ad Avenues (b) Nexus Equity
 (c) Speer (d) Lintas

ANSWERS

- I (d) II (e) III (f) IV (a) V (g) VI (c) VII (b).
 1 (b) 2 (d) 3 (a) 4 (c) 5 (d) 6 (a) 7 (c) 8 (b)
 9 (a) 10 (d) 11 (b) 12 (c) 13 (b) 14 (a) 15 (d) 16 (b)
 17 (a) 18 (c) 19 (b) 20 (d) 21 (a) 22 (b) 23 (d) 24 (c)
 25 (d) 26 (a) 27 (c) 28 (b) 29 (c) 30 (a)

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- 25-30 correct: Excellent
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The Competition Master's Guide to Opportunities

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1. Foundation, Intermediate and Final Exams: To be held on November 6, 1997. Last date: August 26, 1997. Apply to: Additional Secretary (Examinations), Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Indraprastha Marg, New Delhi - 110 002 with a DD for Rs 15.

2. Chartered Financial Analyst/Diploma in Business Finance: Apply to: ICFAI, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500 034 with a DD for Rs 100.

3. Master in Financial Administration (2 years): Eligibility: Graduation with minimum 50% marks. Written test: September 14, 1997. Last date: September 2, 1997. Apply to: Institute of Management Studies, Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Takshila Campus, Khandwa Road, Indore - 452 001 with a DD for Rs 650.

Distance Education

1. Diploma in creative writing in English/Hindi: Eligibility: Class 12 or above 20 years. Last date for submission of forms: October 1, 1997. Prospectus can be obtained from Regional Centres on payment of Rs 10 or IGNOU by sending a DD for Rs 20: Indira Gandhi National Open University, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi - 110 068.

2. Diplomas in Management, Labour, etc: Eligibility: No formal education required. Apply to: National Institute of Labour Education and Management, 59, Second Street, Parameswari Nagar, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020 with a DD for Rs 30.

3. PG Programmes in Marketing, Bank and Investment Management (2 years): Last date: September 30, 1997. Apply to: Director, Directorate of Distance Education, Alagappa University, Karaikudi - 630 003 (Tamil Nadu) with a DD for Rs 55.

Fashion Design

Diploma in Fashion Design (1 year and 2 years): Eligibility: Class 12. Apply to: National Institute of Vocational Studies, Mohammadpur, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110 066 with a DD for Rs 150.

Films

Diploma in Animation (2 years): Apply to: Heart Animation Academy, Annapurna Studios, Road No. 2, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad - 500 033 with a DD for Rs 100.

Foreign Languages

Persian: Apply to: Iran Cultural House, 18, Tilak Marg, New Delhi - 110 001.

Hotel Management

Diploma in Hotel Management (3 years): Eligibility: Class 12. Apply to: National Institute of Hotel Management and Catering, 457, Bomikhal, Bhubaneswar - 751 010 with a DD for Rs 200.

Journalism

PG Diploma in Journalism: Eligibility: Graduation. Last date: August 30, 1997. Apply to: Indian Institute of Journalism, B-3/91, Janak Puri, New Delhi - 110 058 with a DD for Rs 100.

Management

1. PG Diploma in Business Management (2 years): Evening Programme (3 years): Eligibility: Bachelor's degree with minimum 50% marks. Written test: January 4, 1998. Last date: November 29, 1997. Apply to: Admissions Coordinator, XLRI, CH Area (E), Jamshedpur - 831 001 with a DD for Rs 500.

2. PG Diploma in Management (2 years): Eligibility: Graduation. Last date: August 23, 1997. Written test: August 24. Apply to: Asia Pacific Institute of Management, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi - 44 with a DD for Rs 500.

3. BBA (3 years): Eligibility: Class 12. Written test: August 31, 1997. Apply to: Agra Institute of Engineering and Technology, Mathura Road, Agra - 282 007 with a DD for Rs 200.

4. PG Diploma in Business Management (2 years): Apply to: Indian Institute of Rural Management, 46, Railway Station Road, Kodambakkam, Chennai - 600 024.

5. MBA Part-time for Working Executives: Eligibility: Graduates with minimum 50% marks and 2 years work experience. Apply to: Hindustan College of Engineering, 40 GST Road, St Thomas Mount, Chennai - 600 016 with a DD for Rs 200.

Scholarships

Intake Scholarships: Eligibility: Graduates, within the age group 23-30. Selection based on personal interview. For details send self-addressed envelope with Rs 4 stamps to: Intake Foundation, PO Box 2108, Delhi - 110 007.

Question Box

Q. What are the job prospects available to a BBA graduate if he does not qualify for MBA? In what subjects can he do post-graduation?

—*Mudita Chandra, Lucknow*

A. The job prospects for a graduate are limited. He can join a company as a junior executive or salesman but it is doubtful that he can rise to senior levels. A higher qualification would be desirable if you are ambitious. There are two options open to you if you do not qualify for MBA. The first is that you do it by correspondence while you are working in a company. The second is to do a masters' course. Depending on whether the BBA degree is recognised or not, you can seek admission to M.A. or M.Com courses. The ideal course is to do MBA.

Remember, a BBA is not a substitute for MBA, as is commonly believed. Many students opt for BBA courses after class 12 hoping that their degree will help them find place in a company at a senior level. This is just not true. One would have to do post-graduation to be taken seriously.

Q. I have completed my Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine (BAMS) but would like to do MBA now. Would a management degree help me get a job in an Ayurvedic company?

—*Veena Hiremath, Pune*

A. An MBA with a BAMS degree would usually be welcome in an Ayurvedic company, but nobody could give you a guarantee. The only way to be sure is to work hard and try to get into a reputed management institute. Armed with a good degree, any company would be willing to employ you. A degree from lower-end institutes may not do you any good.

Q. What are the job opportunities

available for a Chartered Accountant?

—*Adarsh Mehta, Ferozepur*

A. All companies require finance and accounts professionals, and a Chartered Accountant is a much sought after degree. Companies pay high salaries to their finance managers. Alternately, CAs also start their own practice or consultancy on accounts and tax matters. The opportunities for good CAs are therefore limitless.

Q. What is the mode of exchange in import and export transactions?

—*Priyanka Shrivastava, Ranchi*

A. The US dollar is the accepted mode of exchange in international transactions. When we export, the value of the exports are converted into US dollars and when we import, we are required to pay in that currency. The difference between dollar values of imports and exports gives the balance of payments position of a country.

Q. What is E-mail? How does it work?

—*Pradepta Pattnaik, Cuttack*

A. E-mail, or electronic mail, is sent through telephone lines and received on computers. A person types out the message on a computer and also puts the E-mail address on the message, just as we put an address on a letter. When the message is complete, a "send" button is pressed and the message is transmitted in seconds to the computer which has that address. The receiver can read it on his screen. E-mail has made communication faster and cheaper. Since it is effortless, it has also encouraged meaningless chatter among people who are connected.

Q. What is the difference between customs duty and excise duty?

—*Amit Kumar, Muzaffarpur (Bihar)*

A. Customs duty is levied on imports

made while excise duty is a duty on production of goods by a factory. The first is applicable on goods entering the country while the second is levied on domestic production by companies.

Q. If a country takes a loan from the IMF and cannot repay it, what will happen?

—*K. Ravi, Calcutta*

A. The defaulting country will be in dire trouble as no country will trade with it. Even essential items will stop. That is the reason that IMF imposes strong conditionalities while giving loans. Recently, Mexico got into such a situation, when there was a flight of foreign capital from the country. In such a situation, the defaulting country has to mortgage its natural resources to get over the crises. In the case of Mexico, the rescue package consisted of the country depositing all receipts for its exports of oil in a US bank.

Q. What are the job opportunities available after doing a course in foreign language?

—*Aslam Equbal, Darbhanga (Bihar)*

A. With the country opening up and a number of foreign companies starting operations here, professionals in foreign languages are in very high demand. They can be employed in MNCs or export houses, or act as translators and interpreters.

Q. I want to do my MBA. Please advise me which computer course I should do?

—*A. Srinivasa Rao, Visakhapatnam (AP)*

A. Reputed MBA courses usually have a semester during which computer skills are taught. You don't need to do a separate computer course if you are doing MBA.

Q. My percentage in graduation is

49%. Am I eligible for management courses?

—Suresh Agarwal, Bareilly (UP)

A. The good management institutes insist on graduation with 50% marks. But you can opt for those institutes which do not have this condition. Alternatively you can do a vocational course rather than do MBA.

Q. I would like to become a psychiatrist. Does it have good prospects?

—Swati Choudhary, Mathura (UP)

A. With tensions and stress increasing in the modern world, psychiatrists are going to be in high demand. Already in metros, a number of people are seeking their services. You would need to have a degree in psychology and professional training before you can become a qualified psychiatrist. You can then work in a hospital or start your own practice.

Q. What percentage of our population lives below the poverty line?

—Sonu Sadan, Kathua (J & K)

A. The Planning Commission has estimated that the national average of people below the poverty line was 35.97 per cent in 1993-94. Bihar heads the list with 54.96 per cent followed by Orissa with 48.56 per cent. Punjab has the least number (11.71 per cent) people below the poverty line.

Q. How is the BSE index calculated?

—Saurabh Agarwal, Shahjahanpur (UP)

A. The Bombay Stock Exchange has an index known as the Sensex. It was made in 1986 with 1978-79 as the base year and takes into account the share values of 30 companies. A weighted average of the values of these shares gives the Sensex, which indicates the health of the Stock market as a whole.

Q. What are non-banking financial companies? What are their activities?

—R. Apparao, Vizianagaram (AP)

A. Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) are those companies which accept deposits and grant loans but are not into day-to-day banking activity. After the CRB scandal, such companies have to register themselves with the RBI and will come under certain restrictions.

Q. How can I prepare for the entrance of the M.A. (Econs) of JNU, Delhi?

—J. P. Zachariah, Kottayam (Kerala)

A. Brush up your basic concepts of economics, names and authors of famous books, common theories and famous economists. A certain amount of maths and statistics may also be asked, since economics uses mathematical models. Detailed information could be obtained from JNU itself or a past student of the course.

Q. How can I improve my spellings?

—Indrajit Seal, Murshidabad (WB)

A. Whenever you write anything, make a draft first. Underline each word that you are not sure of. Then sit with a dictionary and correct all the mistakes before making a final copy. If you do this often enough, you will find yourself getting familiar with the words and will not make the mistakes again.

Q. I have done a one year diploma in computers from a reputed training institute. How can I get a job as a computer operator?

—Rajeev Ranjan Pal, Hazaribagh (Bihar)

A. Ask your computer institute to help you look for a job, since such insti-

tutes claim that they help people get jobs. They would also be in touch with industry which would make the task easy. Alternatively, look for advertisements and apply to companies and your search for a job may well be satisfied through that route.

Q. What is the "trickle down" effect?

—Arabinda Biswal, Bhadrak (Orissa)

A. When a policy is implemented for one target segment of the population but by doing so, another segment of the population also benefits, it is said to "trickle down". For example, if adult literacy classes are started, chances are that the parents will teach their children too. So the benefits of adult literacy classes may have trickled down to improve primary education too.

Q. I am doing my B.Sc. and have also enrolled for ICWAI. How can I get a good job?

—Sumita Dey, Bokaro

A. You have enrolled in two unrelated courses, which you are sure to find difficult. You have to decide which field—sciences or cost accountancy—you wish to make a career in, and then go about achieving it. Ideally, you should be doing B.Com if you want to do ICWAI.

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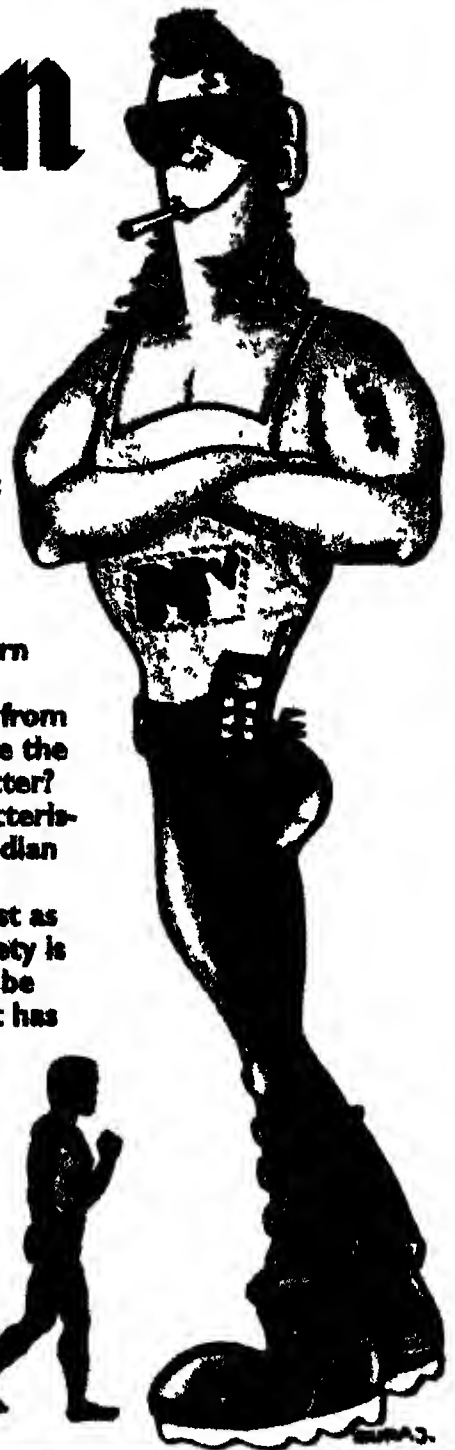
Evolution of the Modern Indian

Proof that man evolved from monkeys can well be found in India: take a look at how the Indian of 1997 evolved and you find many clues that would link man to his ancestors. Only, the ancestors were perhaps more ethical and human than what we see today.

This month the **COMPETITION MASTER** departs from tradition and presents a cover story that takes a tongue-in-cheek look at the modern Indian. We look at the personality traits that mark national life and attempt to discover their origin. The Indian of today is very different from the Indian of 1947, the Indian who fought for independence. How have the changes taken place? What is it that distinguishes our national character?

But it would be wrong to say that all Indians have common characteristics. When we travel around the country, we discover that the new Indian exists only in the cities while the villages seem to be caught in a time warp. Just a few kilometres from the capital one finds people living just as their grandfathers must have, with little change in lifestyles. The society is feudal. Girls are not sent to study and the media revolution may well be non-existent. If people fall in love from different castes, the panchayat has no hesitation in announcing the death sentence for them.

This issue describes the new India from the eyes of a space traveller who landed in India by mistake. Read on for his analysis.



SHARMA



The year was 1997. While the earth was rejoicing over a robot that landed on Mars, a spaceship came from that very planet and landed on the earth, in one of the most populated nations. That nation was India. It was specifically chosen to find out how humans live and multiply, and how their society was formed. The spacecraft landed in the airport of a large city but was undetected because the air traffic controllers had gone on strike.

When they went to the city, the Martians saw thousands of people going from one place to the other. But many stood around and chatted with each other as if they had nothing to do. They spat anywhere. They also relieved themselves against walls, lending to city an aroma that could not be described in words. The affluent moved around in cars, honking loudly so that others could get out of the way. For some reason, they wore sun glasses even when there was no sun. Open drains carried the sludge created by humans to the rivers and lakes, making them large, open sewers. Right next to the drains, shops sold wonderful things to eat: it did not matter to anybody that filth co-existed with items of consumption.

The Martians decided to study the Indians, their psychology and mannerisms and how they had evolved over the years. They converted

themselves into human beings and started living as Indians, taking copious notes. They had to report back about the evolution of life on earth.

The Loss of Pride

When they studied the country's past, they discovered that it had struggled long to shake off the rule by a foreign country. The fight had been noble and marked by non-violence. The Indians were often tortured and put into jail, but the powerful foreigners could do nothing about a man named Mahatma Gandhi who had given a potent call—Quit India—to the foreigners.

The foreigners left in 1947, which became the starting point of the evolution of the modern Indian. It was a point when the country started its tryst with destiny and it was also a moment of triumph for all those who had fought the British. The moment was tinged with tragedy as the

country broke up and thousands of people were uprooted or murdered. Freedom did not come without trauma.

Of course, there was nothing to show for it now. Today, freedom could be obtained easily by drinking a popular cold drink or by buying a car which had a freedom sticker on it. Today, freedom means breaking traffic rules, throwing rubbish around and stretching laws for personal benefit. Evolution had made the patriotic Indian of 1947 into a self-centred individual who cared little for his fellow being or the nation.

It was almost as if the country had lost its sense of direction. The initial years were marked by patriotic feelings. The Indians were proud people. They worshipped their leaders. India, they said, would become the next superpower. But the dream broke when the country was defeated by the Chinese and there was considerable loss of confidence. Moreover, the leaders

had given to the people a closed economy guided by ideas of socialism, which not only sapped the nation's energy but placed immense power in the hands of bureaucrats and politicians.

Slowly, this power was used to amass personal fortunes at every level: who cared if the country was getting sold in the process? There was shortage of goods and services because enterprise was restricted in many ways. A black market thrived. In government offices, the only way to get work done was by giving a bribe.

Corruption became a permanent fixture in conversations. But nothing could be done. This resulted in erosion of self-confidence and pride in the people.

National Hobby

Long before American talk shows became famous in India, the country had taken up the national hobby, which was to comment on everything and anything. Everyone was becoming an armchair expert and by 1997, the process was complete. There was not a single problem that could not be solved by commentators. The people could also advise other countries on how to run their affairs, if only they were given a chance. Indeed, the country exported religious and other *babas* who did exactly that. International problems were sought to be solved by meditation and discourses. Apart from creating a few hippies, there was no evidence whether the religious mumbo-jumbo helped anyone but the *babas*, who returned home

with great wealth from abroad.

There was plenty of advice which could be got at the neighbourhood dhaba. People who probably had never held a bat straight gave advice to Sachin Tendulkar on how he could manage his team. They also knew what film stars like Amitabh Bachchan should do. Politics was, of course, a favourite and any number of people could tell the Prime Minister how he should run the country.

So much was the discussion in the country that everything else took a back seat. Instant solutions were available. How does one solve environmental pollution? Simple—just introduce a course in schools. While nobody wanted to do anything about the problem, the bags of school children became heavier over the years. How do you solve the population problem? Simple—get people educated and try for a change in attitudes. Poverty? That too could be solved easily by educating the people. Child labour? Dowry? Educate, educate. Change attitudes. Never mind if no work was ever done on the ground.

Don't Do Anything, Just Stand There

Economically or technologically, there was nothing to show. The country had slipped a great deal and could not even solve its own problems. Other countries had taken a march and were better off than India.

Slowly, this started pervading the entire society. For

example, an accident on the roads would often result in a small crowd of onlookers. Many of them would proclaim who was at fault and enjoy the spectacle of blood oozing out on the road. None would, however, remove the injured to the hospital. They didn't do so because they did not want to be harassed by the police and this resulted in a general apathetic attitude.

It was easy to blame this on the concept of fate, but the Indian had actually devised a way to deal with emergencies. Whenever anything happened, the best thing to do was to Just Stand There, Do Nothing till the police arrived

socially useful. One could also boast about one's culture that said that people should look after their fellow beings. It was all very well in foreign countries where people would actually do something in times of tragedy, but then look at the foreign countries, they do not have a culture as rich as ours. We are much superior than them.

One could well imagine what would happen to a country where everyone followed the policies of doing nothing. For any job that was to be done, a seasoned bureaucrat could think of at least seven reasons why it could not be done. Files

tion. Airlines, satellite television, women's reservation and right to information were sought to be spiked by appointing committees and by other novel methods. Imagine the immense harm to the country if all things had been passed!

Blame it on the government!

Over the years, the people discovered the perfect excuse for just about everything. And that was to blame the government. Garbage could be thrown anywhere and the government blamed for not keeping the cities clean. People continued to procreate and then blamed the government for not doing anything about the increase in population. Electricity, water and transport problems were blamed on the government. There was nothing that could not be blamed on the inaction of the government.

The Indian that evolved over the years nursed a kind of subservient attitude to everything. Most people believed that the government was *mai-baap* and could provide for anything. That is why everyone wanted a government job—where else could one spend a lifetime chattering away and getting paid for it?

There were a few people who broke the rut and wanted to become entrepreneurs. Many became successful and earned a lot of money. The government tried to control them through various methods—they were not given licenses or threatened with income tax cases, but still they

Freedom could be obtained easily only by drinking & smoking. Both were a blessing & a curse. And a freedom fighter of a today, freedom means breaking trails, not, drinking rubbish around and stretching laws for personal benefit.

and took the victim to a dilapidated government hospital. If at all the watching Indian did something, it was to loot the poor victims, as was seen whenever a tragedy took place anywhere in the country.

The formula worked very well—by standing around, one could not only become rich but also claim to be

moved and everyone put notes on light green pages but no physical work was ever done.

Successive governments, on the other hand, went about rewarding the inept and over-sized bureaucracy, the latest by selectively implementing the Pay Commission report. The *babus* were, after all, doing a wonderful job of thinking fresh objections even in times of liberalisa-



succeeded. It was because of them that the country progressed somewhat. Foreign trade and exports depended on how efficient they were but they were never encouraged. The ministers made appropriate speeches but never let them be totally free. For one business that started, five inspectors were appointed to see whether things were in order.

During elections, politicians would make tall promises. Of course things were not as simple as that and after the election, the policy was to do nothing, hoping the people would forget. Very often, they did.

This helped people become passive onlookers while the leaders were left free to do their own thing, which was to make money. Many problems could have been solved by the people themselves. For instance, if they did not throw garbage in the drains, flood water could be drained out faster. If there was no water in a village, the people could collectively dig a well. Indeed, such initiatives were taken around the country, but they were few and far between. For the most part, Indians waited for the government to do something for them.

This was in sharp contrast with the Indian of pre-1947, who was action-oriented. It was almost as if people had given up their desire for action once independence was achieved. Foreign rule had ended, but had left a deep mark on the psyche of the Indian. Even when he knew he could help himself, he preferred to be a witness to what the government did or did not



The Martians were very confused when they started studying India. They looked for a typical Indian but could not find one. There were so many disparities that Indians from different backgrounds could well be living in different countries or different planets.

At the top were the affluent Indians, businessmen who had made it big, government officials who had obtained bribes for doing the work they were supposed to, or those who held good jobs in multinationals. They spoke accented English and even spoke Hindi as if it was English. Their children drove cars without obtaining a driving license. The girls wore few clothes and the boys sported ear-rings and ponytails. They were also arrogant

and looked down on everything Indian. They spent their summer vacations in Switzerland and while they were in India, looked forward to parties in discotheques. They were also sexually liberated.

Below this was the middle class, consisting of people in middle level jobs and government servants who did not have an opportunity to take bribes. These people spoke English with an Indian accent and Hindi the way it should be spoken. Children of these people lived on a planet of hard work and achievement. They were socially conservative and were proud of being Indians, though they loved foreign goods. Some ambitious persons did try to reach out to become like the first group, but they fell to the ground with a resounding thud. Many looked for jobs at government services.

The poor lived in cramped quarters in small colonies. They worked in factories and offices and tried to make ends meet. Their children dreamt of making it big and often dressed up like the first group. Though they wanted to be achievers, they lacked

do. Deep down, he perhaps suffered a complex which often led to other forms of deviant behaviour.

Respect for the Law

It was almost as if Indians had lost their confidence in themselves. The people then tried to cover up

The Many Indias

the reasons to make the first group the class below the class of the very poor. They did not have any place to live and had to make do with a hut which usually burned down in the summer. Their water supply was polluted and many diseases would spread. People from this segment worked in menial jobs in the homes of the rich, where they were treated badly. Though they helped the rich to maintain their luxurious lifestyles, they were looked down upon and often told how their population had increased and polluted India's environment.

There was also rural India, where people were engaged in agriculture. There were no educational or medical facilities available here. The panchayat ruled the respective villages. People were often

killed for belonging to one caste or the other. Child marriage, sati and other such things existed in different areas.

Which was the real India? Who could be taken as the real Indian? The Martians racked their brains but could not come up with an answer. When they looked at newspapers, it seemed that only the rich inhabited the country. Which was, in a way, true, because the poor did not matter and were highly disposable. But how could they close their eyes to reality, which the newspapers had done?

They decided to report that there were several countries within one country. The humans had perfected a system where disparities of income could grow indefinitely. So there was no typical Indian, only many individuals with different thoughts and aspirations. Each had evolved separately and the country could not be said to have a common evolution for everybody.

their loss of self-respect by aggressive behaviour. They were rude to each other and got a thrill in breaking traffic rules. Impotent power had to find an outlet somehow.

In the post office or the bank, employees scolded the common man for disturbing their tea break. Very often, a

personal request had to be made to withdraw their own money. Registration of vehicles, depositing electricity bills and a host of everyday problems were also done as they were being favoured. The mood of the dealing clerk could be made better if a bribe was offered. Often, they felt

Which is the Real India?

encouraged to break laws, especially after a truck driver shouted at them for stopping at a red light.

The affluent became increasingly arrogant. If everything could be bought in the country, why bother about the niceties of life? They gave vehicles to their children who drove them around like maniacs. Children of politicians and bureaucrats picked up fights and raped girls, while the police hushed up such cases. In many towns and cities, the law existed only in its blatant disregard.

Nobody then minded the other things which impinged on personal freedom. Loud-speakers came up suddenly if someone wanted to celebrate ones birthday or marriage or simply felt religious enough. Sometimes neighbours had to put up with the noise for the whole night because of a tradition which said that the praying should be done throughout the night.

The New Gods

With so little consideration for other humans, consideration

for other forms of life was even less. The Indian that had evolved over the years no longer worshipped life forms but went about cruel exploitation of resources. Throughout the length and breadth of the country, wildlife was decimated. Every year saw a decline in forest cover. In many areas polluted water was available, if at all.

Theoretically, the Indians

had Gods for everything, from rain to wealth. In reality, they worshipped only two things: money and television. Nothing else mattered. The first signified the greed that had come to dominate Indian life. Once known for co-existence of all in the joint family system, now families were breaking up.

False superiority

Amid all this, Indians continued to nurture a sense of superiority. They had a permanent grudge against the West. Every scientific discovery, for instance, had a reference in our ancient Sanskrit texts. The horrible Westerners had stolen our texts and were laying claim to discoveries and inventions that rightfully belonged to India. The comet Hale-Bopp? Oh, that was written in our books centuries ago. The nuclear bomb? Read the Mahabharata and you find that we had these weapons years ago. Space exploration? That too was described in our old texts.

With scientists themselves taking shelter in such arguments, it was no wonder that science in the country was in a poor situation. It did not matter that all our scientific institutions and universities never produced a thing which was worthwhile. The much touted

Param computer 'never saw the light of day. The best known scientific discoveries that the country seem to have produced in recent times have

been a drug that supposedly improves memory and a method of producing herbal fuel. While the second was a fraud, the first could not be empirically checked.

Having little to take pride in, the Indian became very possessive about his culture and remains so to this day. So what if other countries were better off economically, he would say, we have a rich culture. He almost closed his eyes to the reality—that Indian culture as perceived by an outsider consisted of corruption and filth. It was foolish to expect that an investor would be moved by a *Bharatnatyam* recital when there were so many obstacles in his way. The Indian did not accept this reality but adopted a self-righteous attitude. Never mind that he would acquire the same lifestyle, given half a chance.

The evolution took all of fifty years. It was fashionable to send children to English medium schools in independent India; slowly English became the language of the elite. By 1997, it was not necessary just to know English, but to be able to speak it in the nasal tone of an American. Indian languages were looked down upon. Indian writers became more popular in English than in Indian languages.

Western lifestyles invaded the country in a big way. You had to wear jeans if you were anybody. Girls wanted to wear skirts, the shorter the better. The native dresses were banned by some elitist clubs in the country. The Indians changed their habits and mannerisms so fast that

even a foreign rule could not have changed them faster. Western music became popular even though many could not understand the words.

The irony was that while the Indians took the appearance and speech and fashion from the West, they did not adopt their work culture. The result was that they became crazy in appearance but could not match the West as far as achievements were concerned.

While in other countries, young people were starting businesses in garages and becoming millionaires, the Indian system encouraged young people to work with the government, which would not add a single rupee to the GDP of the country. The policy makers then lamented that the economy was not picking up, despite their best efforts: first they created a system where no one can work, then cried about the economy.

The Martians were quite impressed with the evolution of the modern Indian. From the selfless leaders of the independence movement who could do anything for their motherland, the average Indian could now do anything to sell the motherland, if only his pocket could be lined. There had been a complete reversal of roles in the fifty years that the country had been independent.

When the Martians finally went back, they went with a sense of wonder in their hearts. How could a country change character so completely in such a short period? It seemed that the Indian had evolved in double quick time, leaving all natural laws far behind.



PERSONAL & YOU



Time: Gold-thread of Life

ACCORDING to Richmond "There is a time to be born and a time to die, but there is an interval between these two, time that is of infinite importance."

In the lives that we lead we lose time and we gain time, but finally it is the utilization of time that matters. Time is very precious and yet it cannot be stolen away from us. Each one of us gets an equal supply of it. While some of us put it to good use others simply waste it.

If time is the most precious of our possessions, wasting it must be considered the most extravagant of our habits, because time once lost can never be recalled. When we, in a fit of misunderstanding, say "We have time enough", we are making an incorrect statement as there is never time enough. As every thread of gold is valuable, so is every moment of time.

Sadly, young people, unaware of this vital fact, throw away precious time in idle pursuits, chasing pleasures which eventually cause pain and lay waste their life. They know the folly of throwing away life in one go but do not hesitate throwing it away piecemeal!

Each moment of time comes to us fresh and unspoiled; our use of it determines its

value. An outstanding feature of time is that you cannot waste it in advance. It is only after you have got your share of it can you start using it.

If you put your time to good use it comes to you in the same quantity and if you waste it, it still comes to you in the same proportion. It is never given in surplus or withheld.

Time is the most paradoxical of things while being most undefinable—the past is gone and the future has not yet come and even while we try to define the moments that are passing us by, our present becomes the past.

In a day comprising 24 hours, we spend 6-7 hours sleeping. Some of us who are more fond of sleeping do so in the afternoons also and this way stretch the sleeping hours to 8-9 hours. We are then left with approximately 17 waking hours.

Our three meals take up about 2 hours and this leaves us with 15 hours to use constructively. A 9 a.m.-5 p.m. job takes up another 8 hours further depleting our supply of time to 9 hours. In these 9 hours we get ready for work, commute to and from our place of work, do our household chores, help the children with their

home work, pay bills, write letters etc. After we finish doing all this we sleep again only to get up with a fresh supply of another 24 hours.

If a routine like the one stated above carries on for the next 20 years we would have spent 51,000 hours sleeping, 14,600 hours eating, 58,400 hours working and 65,700 hours getting ready, commuting, doing household chores etc.

Forelock

MANY lead a hurried and harried life simply because they are beaten by the clock. Instead of catching time by the forelock, they vainly try to grasp it when it has flown by.

They find a lot of important chores staring at them making them irritable and uncomfortable. "We are chronically short of time", they lament. They are the procrastinators, adept in the art of postponing things. Their motto seems to be: 'why do to-day what can be put off till tomorrow?'

The habit can be broken. You must, in the first place, stop telling yourself that you are short of time. Compare yourself

with a person who is never hurried on this account. Both of you have the same amount of time in a day—24 hours. It is the difference in your respective approaches to the utilisation of it that makes you an expert in dilly dallying.

Tell yourself that a procrastinator is an expert in inventing excuses. He does it unconsciously, "I will do it in the early morning when I am fresh." "I need complete relaxation to write letters." "I will finish this only after consulting so and so" are some of the excuses you unconsciously use to put off a thing for tomorrow. There is a grain of truth in the excuses but not enough to warrant you to postpone the task. You have to black out this habit. You will find taking jobs in hand instead of your hands being full with them.

Moods

ANOTHER common factor contributing to your procrastination is your slavery to your moods. Often you say to yourself, "I am not in a mood to do it now. I will take it up tomorrow."

Moods must be mastered. If you leave yourself to the mercy of moods, you vacillate. Moods are whimsical masters.

There is one sure way of fighting moods. Remind yourself that to be called a moody person is unflattering "He is very moody", is not a compliment. It means he is undependable and unreliable. Do you like to be called so? Do the right thing at the right time and you will be the lord of your moods.

Many men have overcome the habit by writing the chores down and then sticking

ing to the schedule as far as possible. But chronic procrastinators dismiss the idea with, "Okay, I will write them down tomorrow." If you decide to undertake it, do it right now.

Pen down at least some important things you have been wanting to do and then get doing them as per your schedule entered in the diary. Do not hedge the task. Do not let moods get the upperhand. Plunge straight into the task.

Once the initial inertia is overcome, you will relish your accomplishment and you will want to do more. There is an immense emotional satisfaction in accomplishing a job. It is the reward which spurs you to achieve more.

It may sound rather strange but it is a fact that you have no definite idea of how much time various chores take. Also perhaps, you do not know that you postpone some chores simply because you have a mistaken notion of the time these will take. Have a fairly accurate idea of time it takes you to write a letter, dusting your room and preparing notes etc.

Another common cause of procrastination is you want to tell yourself: it is humanly impossible to run life on such a tight schedule

Life cannot be capsuled in rigid timetables. There is an element of truth in it. But the answer to this argument is: life without organisation is utter chaos. Moreover timetables can be altered or cast afresh.

Rewards

THE rewards of keeping-it-up-to-date are many. You finish your jobs quickly

and on time. You are not haunted by the spectre of undone or half-finished chores. Your mind becomes clear and not cluttered. Your leisure will be free from disturbing thoughts.

Our time, when well-managed, is like a cultivated field of which a few acres produces more than uncultivated areas, even if they have the richer soil.

Hence, the management of time is of utmost importance. The big waster of time uses the excuse-technique and crosses by every golden opportunity.

There is a commonplace phrase with which readers must be familiar—"to catch time by the forelock." Why should we catch time by the forelock? Because time is symbolically represented with a forelock on its head. The rest of its head is bald. The implication is that if you fail to catch the forelock, you cannot catch anything as it is bald!

No wonder, time is what we most want and time is what we use worst!

Hints

- Observe a *method* in the distribution of your time.
- Know the proper employment of each hour.
- Shut out idleness. Treat procrastination as a real thief of your most valuable possession.
- Count that day lost, wherein no worthy action has been done

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Johnson's Wit-Sparks

THE latter half of the 18th century was dominated by the great dictator of the literary world—Dr Johnson—whose witticisms and humour made him popular among the literary giants of his age

One of Johnson's friends was the actor David Garrick, who frequently took him to the greenroom and to rehearsals at his theatre. Here he made acquaintance with many actors and actresses, greatly relishing their company.

But he finally relinquished this pleasure on moral grounds, telling Garrick, "I will come no more behind your scenes, David, for the silk stockings and white bosoms of your actresses excite my amorous propensities."

Goldsmith who complained to Johnson of the success of Beattie's Essay on Truth, said, "Here is such a stir about

a fellow who has written one book and I have written many."

"Ah", said Johnson, "There go two and forty-six pence to one guinea, you know, Doctor?"

Boswell, despite his diligence and devotion, received a couple of hard knocks from his friend.

Once Boswell complained of a noisy company the day before and said his head was aching. Returned the burly Johnson "No, sir, it was not the noise that made your head ache, it was the sense we put into it."

In all innocence, asked Boswell, "Has sense that effect on the head?" "Yes, sir, on heads not used to it", thundered Johnson.

About Chesterfield he said, "My Lord may be a wit among lords but I fancy he is

no more than a lord among wits."

Johnson started the trend of making Scotland and Scots a butt at which to fire shafts of wit. The habit grew upon him and many are the amusing exaggerations inspired by the theme.

After Boswell had taken Johnson to Scotland he asked, "You have now been in Scotland, sir, and say if you did not see meat and drink enough here."

"Why yes, sir", retorted Johnson, "Meat and drink enough to give the inhabitants sufficient strength to run away."

Johnson was inspired by an impish sense of humour. That is why he constantly harped on this theme. After his tour of Scotland he was asked if he had acquired a better opinion of Scotland. Said he,

"That is a very vile country to be sure."

Boswell said, "God made it."

Replied Johnson, "Well, Sir, certainly he did, but we must remember that he made it for Scotsmen and comparisons are odious. But God also made Hell!"

A pretentious person seeking his favour laughed at every sentence the doctor spoke. Johnson bore it for some time and broke out with, "Pray sir, what is the matter? I hope I have not said anything which you can comprehend."

Actor Garrick referring to Johnson's dislike of the Whigs asked him, "Why did you not make me a Tory when we lived so much together?" Johnson took out a couple of half pence from his pocket and asked, "Why did the king not make these guineas?"

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Questions 1-25 had appeared in August '97 issue. The balance questions are given below:

Passage II (Items 26 to 28)

A wounded dolphin must be handled with great care. Its tender skin, as fragile as wet paper, must be protected from drying out—on this occasion with ordinary cooking oil. The animal must be kept wet and cool, or it will literally die under its own weight. Once the dolphin is removed from the water, its body weight is its enemy. Its fins can get crushed under its own weight.

26. The skin of the dolphin is

- (a) thick and rough
- (b) soft and delicate
- (c) dry and rugged
- (d) hard and durable

27. A dolphin stranded on land suffers most because of

- (a) the men who hurt it
- (b) the birds of prey
- (c) its own weight
- (d) injuries

28. The best way to help a wounded dolphin is to

- (a) rub oil on its body
- (b) take it to a doctor
- (c) dry its skin immediately
- (d) unfold its fins

Passage III (Items 29 to 31)

Each novel is a world by itself. It deals with the characters of varied types and temperaments. As a reader goes through the pages of a novel, he feels that he is moving on a familiar ground. When one reads the novels of Sarat Chandra or Premchand, one feels that one is moving about the villages of India. The writers like Sivsankar Pillai, Pannalal Patel and Birendrakumar Bhattacharjya can take their readers to the hard but compassionate world. Similarly, Walter Scott and Bankim Chandra bring a reader face to face with the gorgeous realities of history.

29. Each novel constitutes a world by itself because

- (a) it tells us a long story
- (b) different men and women inhabit it

(c) it tells stories about villages

(d) it teaches us history

30. When a reader goes through the pages of a novel,

- (a) he feels that he is moving on a known ground
- (b) he develops a sort of imaginary excursion
- (c) he has a feeling of nostalgia
- (d) he feels that he is restricted to a familiar ground

31. The author is of the opinion that

- (a) novel reading is a great pleasure
- (b) the novel today is the most popular form of literature
- (c) Walter Scott and Bankim Chandra are great novelists
- (d) only Walter Scott could expose the reality of history

Passage IV (Items 32 to 34)

Ants seem to be able to do everything but think. When an individual ant is subjected to any kind of intelligence test it generally comes out of it rather badly. An ant has very little individuality and is not beset by any anti-social urges or desires as men and women so often are; there are no counterparts of police in an ant's nest because there would be nothing for them to do. Any food an ant finds is shared, and it will unhesitatingly sacrifice its life if the nest is threatened. All the work it does is done for the community. The amazing industry and selflessness of ants has excited the admiration of man since the time of Solomon.

32. The individual ant generally comes out of the intelligence test badly because

- (a) it is not used to tests
- (b) it is bad at taking tests
- (c) it is not equipped to think
- (d) it has examination fear

33. There is no police in an ant's nest because

- (a) they are friendly creatures by nature
- (b) they never harm other ants, or create problems
- (c) they do nothing at all, all day long
- (d) they are harmful creatures

34. Ants are different from the human beings because unlike the human beings they

- (a) are peace loving and generous
- (b) have minds of their own
- (c) are anti-social
- (d) have their own industries

ORDERING OF WORDS IN A SENTENCE (Items 35 to 39)

Directions:

In each of the items 35-39, there is a sentence of which some parts have been jumbled up. You are required to re-arrange these parts which are labelled P, Q, R and S to produce the correct sentence. Choose the proper sequence and mark in your Answer Sheet accordingly.

Example:

Z. It is well-known that

- (P) the effect
- (Q) is very bad
- (R) on children
- (S) of cinema

The proper sequence should be

- (a) PSRQ
- (b) SPQR
- (c) SRPQ
- (d) QSRP

Explanation: The proper way of writing the sentence is 'It is well-known that the effect of cinema on children is very bad.' This is indicated by the sequence PSRQ and so 'a' is the correct answer.

Now attempt items 35 to 39.

35. On seeing the tiger,

- (P) the lamb
- (Q) began to cry
- (R) which had lost its mother
- (S) and tried to run away

The proper sequence should be

- (a) PQRS
- (b) PRQS
- (c) PQSR
- (d) PRSQ

36. The primitive people

- (P) that all natural events
- (Q) who believed
- (R) were ignorant of the physical world
- (S) were caused by some power

The proper sequence should be

- (a) Q R P S
(b) R P Q S
(c) Q P S R
(d) R Q P S
37. Her mother
(P) when she was at school
(Q) often failed to pay Madhu's fees
(R) who died at an early age
(S) after the death of the father
The proper sequence should be
(a) Q S R P
(b) S R P Q
(c) S R Q P
(d) Q P S R

38. I told my friend
(P) on the first of April
(Q) that I was going to Germany
(R) whom I met at Nagpur
(S) at a Conference in January
The proper sequence should be
(a) Q S R P
(b) R S Q P
(c) R P Q S
(d) Q P R S
39. A magician
(P) failed to satisfy the students
(Q) who was invited to the college
(R) the old tricks to them
(S) when he showed
The proper sequence should be
(a) Q S R P
(b) S P R Q
(c) S R P Q
(d) Q P S R

RECONSTRUCTING PASSAGE (Items 40 to 44)

Directions:

In items 40 to 44, there are six sentences marked S₁, S₆, P, Q, R, S. The positions of S₁ and S₆ are fixed as the first and last sentences of the passage. You are required to choose one of the four alternatives given below every passage which would be the most logical sequence of the sentences in the passage.

Mark your response on the Answer Sheet at the appropriate space.

Example X has been solved for you.

Example X:

S₁: A poor peasant went off early one morning to plough, taking with him for his breakfast a piece of bread.

S₆: He lifted the coat, but the bread was gone!

P: After a while, when his horse was tired and he was hungry, the peasant stopped ploughing.

Q: He hid it under a bush and started work.

R: He went to get his coat and his breakfast.

S: He got his plough ready and put his coat round the bread.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) S Q P R
(b) Q P R S
(c) P R S Q
(d) R S Q P

Explanation: The proper sequence in this example is: SQPR which is marked (a). Therefore 'a' is the correct answer.

Now attempt items 40 to 44.

40. S₁: I stood staring into the pit.

S₆: At the sound of birds overhead, I looked up at the huge Fighting Machine that would fight no more.

P: Across on the other side of the pit, huge and strange, lay a great Flying Machine.

Q: The huge engines, so great and wonderful in their power, so unearthly in their shapes, rose out of the shadows.

R: They must have been experimenting with this when decay and death stopped them.

S: A crowd of dogs fought over the bodies that lay in the depth of the pit, far below me.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) Q S P R
(b) Q R S P
(c) P Q S R
(d) P R Q S

41. S₁: One day Phatik lost his lesson-book.

S₆: Even his cousins were ashamed to own him.

P: His condition became miserable.

Q: Even with the help of books he had found it difficult to prepare his lesson.

R: The teacher would cane him mercilessly.

S: Now it was impossible.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P R Q S
(b) P S R Q
(c) Q S R P
(d) Q P R S

42. S₁: One day he stole a piece of gold.

S₆: His father read the confession and then tore up the paper without saying a word.

P: Stealing was a great sin.

Q: He wrote a confession of his crime and handed the paper to his

father who was ill at that time.

R: He decided never in his life to steal again.

S: He knew that he had committed a great crime.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P R S Q
(b) P S R Q
(c) R Q S P
(d) R Q P S

43. S₁: A superstition is a belief people hold which is not based on reason.

S₆: In this way, they feel they will avoid bad luck.

P: People believe that they can bring themselves good luck by acting in certain ways.

Q: When some people spill salt they immediately take some of it and throw it over their left shoulder.

R: These beliefs often go against the laws of nature as we know them.

S: An example of this involves salt.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) R S Q P
(b) P R S Q
(c) R P S Q
(d) P S Q R

44. S₁: There is a widespread assumption that work gets harder after 40.

S₆: But you must have done the right things before that milestone birthday.

P: The responsibilities may be heavier but now you are judged for your experience.

Q: But in most places work gets dramatically easier after 40.

R: Most of the major rewards of success tend to accumulate after the age of 40.

S: Of course, a few things do get harder, like getting up in the morning without any pain or ache.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P S R Q
(b) S Q P R
(c) S P Q R
(d) P R Q S

SELECTING WORDS (Items 45 to 50)

Directions:

In the following sentences, at certain points you are given a choice of three words—one of which is most appropriate. Choose the best word out of the three. Mark the letter, viz, 'a', 'b' or 'c' relating to this word on your Answer Sheet. Examples 'K' and 'L' have been

solved for you.

K. The river has been

- (a) rising
- (b) raising
- (c) arising

all night.

L. We built the raft

- (a) too strong
- (b) very strong
- (c) strong enough

to hold us.

Out of the list given in 'K' only "rising" is the correct answer because a river cannot be raised, it rises on its own. So 'a' is the correct answer for item 'K'. For item 'L' 'c' is the correct answer. In order to solve these items you have to first read the whole passage and then decide what the most appropriate word is.

Now attempt items 45 to 50

The British lived in India for nearly a hundred and fifty years but they remained foreigners to the last, unlike all other foreign people who had come to India before.

45. (a) Some
(b) They
(c) Many

took for themselves everything they

46. (a) can
(b) would
(c) could

get from our land and

47. (a) their
(b) our
(c) poor

people, leaving the country in a

48. (a) richer
(b) poorer
(c) wretched

and more miserable condition than

49. (a) they
(b) we
(c) it

had ever been before. How

50. (a) did
(b) should
(c) can

we allow this to happen?

ANSWERS

- | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 26. (b) | 27. (c) | 28. (a) |
| 29. (b) | 30. (a) | 31. (a) |
| 32. (c) | 33. (a) | 34. (a) |
| 35. (b) | 36. (c) | 37. (a) |
| 38. (b) | 39. (d) | 40. (b) |
| 41. (d) | 42. (c) | 43. (c) |
| 44. (b) | 45. (b) | 46. (c) |
| 47. (c) | 48. (b) | 49. (c) |
| 50. (a) | | |

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Quantitative Aptitude

1. Five bells begin to toll together and toll respectively at intervals of $1\frac{1}{8}$, $1\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{11}{8}$, $\frac{7}{4}$, $\frac{9}{4}$ seconds. The number of time they will toll together in an hour is:

- (a) 11 (b) 15 (c) 13 (d) 12

2. The missing figures indicated by asterisks in $3\frac{1}{4} \times * \frac{2}{5} = 13\frac{3}{4}$ (the fractions being in lowest terms) are:

- (a) 5, 3 (b) 3, 5 (c) 8, 4 (d) 4, 8

3. A passenger train running at the speed of 90 km/hr leaves the station 6 hrs after a goods train leaves and overtakes it in 4 hrs. The speed of goods train is:

- (a) 40 km/hr (b) 36 km/hr
(c) 32 km/hr (d) 50 km/hr

4. Two nos. are respectively 30% and 40% more than the third number. What % is the first number of the second?

- (a) 130 (b) 112 (c) 98 (d) $92\frac{6}{7}$

5. The difference between the length and breadth of a rectangle is 13 m. If the perimeter of a rectangle is 34 m, what is its area?

- (a) 30 m^2 (b) 45 m^2 (c) 36 m^2 (d) 50 m^2

6. In an examination 36% of total students failed in Hindi, 54% failed in English and 20% failed in both. What % of the total students passed in both the subjects?

- (a) 30% (b) 45% (c) 10% (d) 70%

7. A can do a job in 10 days and B in 15 days. They start working together but after 5 days B leaves. In how many more days A can finish the work?

- (a) 2 (b) $1\frac{2}{3}$ (c) 3 (d) 5

8. A person sold his watch for Rs 144. If the percentage of his profit was equal to the cost price, the watch had cost him:

- (a) Rs 100 (b) Rs 95 (c) Rs 80 (d) Rs 57

9. The difference between two nos. is 14 and their sum is 20. What will be their product?

- (a) 51 (b) 47 (c) 56 (d) 46

10. The amount of donation (in paise) given by each student in a class is the same as the total no. of students in that class. In order that the amount of donation be Rs 49, the teacher had to pay Rs 13. How many students were there in the class?

- (a) 55 (b) 47 (c) 60 (d) 51

11. The difference between the figures of a two-digit no.

is 7. What will be the difference between this no. and the no. formed by reversing the digits?

- (a) 49 (b) 63 (c) 54
(d) cannot be determined

12. The average temperature from 9th to 16th of a month (both days inclusive) was 32°C and that of from 10th to 17th of the same month (both days inclusive) was 30°C . The temperature on 9th was 35°C , what was the temperature on 17th?

- (a) 25°C (b) 19°C (c) 28°C (d) None of these

13. What is the value of $\frac{x+y}{x-y}$ if $\frac{x}{y} = 5$

- (a) $\frac{3}{2}$ (b) $\frac{5}{3}$ (c) $\frac{8}{7}$ (d) $\frac{4}{3}$

14. The value of $1.07 \times 65 + 1.07 \times 26 + 1.07 \times 9$ is:

- (a) 10.73 (b) 10.7 (c) 1070 (d) 107

15. A tradesman's charges are 30% over cost price. He allows his customers' discount 10% off their bills for cash payment. His net gain per cent is:

- (a) 17% (b) 15% (c) 20% (d) 10%

16. The value of

$$\frac{.0347 \times 0.347 \times .0347 + (.9653)^3}{(.0347)^2 - .0347 \times .9653 + (.9653)^2}$$
 is:

- (a) 18 (b) 1 (c) 20 (d) 10

17. Find the fraction which shall bear the same ratio to $\frac{4}{9}$ that $\frac{3}{11}$ does to $\frac{5}{33}$.

- (a) $\frac{5}{4}$ (b) $\frac{5}{3}$ (c) $\frac{4}{5}$ (d) $\frac{3}{5}$

18. If 8 men or 12 boys can do a piece of work in 16 days, in how many days 20 men and 6 boys would finish that work?

- (a) $4\frac{2}{3}$ (b) $7\frac{1}{2}$ (c) $5\frac{1}{3}$ (d) 6

19. Express as vulgar fraction in their lowest form: $9.0\overline{579}$

- (a) 10 (b) $9\frac{1}{3}$ (c) $9\frac{579}{9990}$ (d) None of these

20. 600 men were seized in a garrison town with provisions for 35 days allowing each man 18 ozs. a day. How long would the provisions last if the garrison were reinforced by 300 men and the daily allowance were reduced to 15 ozs. a day?

- (a) 28 days (b) 35 days (c) 19 days (d) 40 days

21. The population of a town increases by 5% annually and its present population is 138915. What was it three years ago?

- (a) 135000 (b) 120000 (c) 116780 (d) 134200

22. A worker earned Rs 20 on one day and spent Rs 15 on the next day. He again earned Rs 20 on the third day and spent Rs 15 on the fourth day and so on. On which day he first have Rs 60 with him?

- (a) 18th (b) 20th (c) 17th (d) 15th

23. A tank 25 m long, 20 m broad and 15 m deep is dug in a field 400 m long and 20 m wide. By how much will the level of the field rise if the earth dug out of the tank is evenly spread over the field?

- (a) 1 m (b) 0.5 m (c) 2.5 m (d) 0.25 m

24. A sum of money put out at C.I. amount to Rs 2205 in 2 years to Rs 2315.25 in 3 years. What is rate %?

- (a) 4% (b) 3% (c) 5% (d) 6.5%

25. Some rupee coins, 50 p coins, 25 p coins, 10 p coins and 5 p coins, the numbers of which are proportional to 2, 3, 5, 4 and 8 respectively make a total sum of Rs 444. The no. of 5 p coins is:

- (a) 520 (b) 400 (c) 240 (d) 640

26. If A earns 25% more than B, by how much per cent does B earn less than A?

- (a) 25% (b) 30% (c) 15% (d) 20%

27. How much 3% stock at $84\frac{1}{4}$ be sold to realise Rs 12600? (Br = $\frac{1}{4}$)

- (a) Rs 12600 (b) Rs 15000 (c) Rs 14750 (d) Rs 13700

28. A man invested a certain sum in 3% stock at $96\frac{7}{8}$ and sold it out when the price rose to $99\frac{3}{8}$. In this transaction he gained a sum of Rs 90. What sum did he invest? (Brokerage = $\frac{1}{8}$)

- (a) Rs 4000 (b) Rs 3880 (c) Rs 5200 (d) Rs 3400

29. Find out the smallest number which when subtracted from 2286 makes it a perfect square:

- (a) 77 (b) 67 (c) 76 (d) 87

30. A marginal walk all round the inside of a rectangular ground 40 m by 35 m occupies 650 sq m. Find the width of the walk.

- (a) 5 m (b) 7.5 m (c) 6.2 m (d) 3.9 m

31. The height of a room is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the sum of length and breadth and the cost of painting its walls @ 10 p per sq m is Rs 80. Find its height.

- (a) 12 m (b) 10 m (c) 8 m (d) 9.5 m

32. The inside circumference of a circular running track is 440 m long and track is everywhere 10 m wide. Find the cost of levelling it at the rate of 7 p per sq m:

- (a) Rs 310 (b) Rs 305 (c) Rs 450 (d) Rs 330

33. How many bricks measuring 25 cm by $12\frac{1}{2}$ cm by $7\frac{1}{2}$ m will be required to build a wall 6 m long, 5 m high and 5 dm thick when $\frac{1}{20}$ of its vol. is filled by mortar?

- (a) 6080 (b) 7200 (c) 5920 (d) 6200

34. A rectangular cistern 8 dm long and 7 dm wide holds, when full, $6\frac{1}{4}$ tons of water. Find its depth assuming that a cu. dm of water weighs 1000 oz.

- (a) 4 dm (b) 3.5 dm (c) 5 dm (d) 3 dm

35. Rs 1500 were divided into two parts and one part was put out at 6% and the other at 5%. If the whole annual interest from both investments was Rs 85, then the investment at 6% was:

- (a) Rs 1200 (b) Rs 1000 (c) Rs 1300 (d) Rs 1150

36-40. One number in the series is wrong. Find out that wrong number.

36. 2, 4, 3, 9, 4, 15, 5, 25

- (a) 15 (b) 9 (c) 5 (d) 25

(e) None of these

37. 3, 7, 5, 11, 10, 23, 13, 27

- (a) 11 (b) 27 (c) 13 (d) 23

(e) None of these

38. 3, 4, 12, 48, 586

- (a) 4 (b) 12 (c) 48 (d) 586

(e) None of these

39. 13, 19, 29, 31, 38, 43, 59

- (a) 29 (b) 31 (c) 38 (d) 59

(e) None of these

40. 1, 8, 27, 63, 125, 216

- (a) 27 (b) 63 (c) 125 (d) 216

(e) None of these

41-45. Study the following table carefully and answer the questions based on it.

Year	Number of tourists arrivals in India	India's foreign exchange earnings (in Rs crores)
1980	409895	71.1
1981	423161	93.2
1982	465275	104.2
1983	533951	225.0
1984	640422	283.0
1985	747995	330.0

41. India's foreign exchange earnings per 1000 tourists in 1983 was:

- (a) 0.40 crore (b) 0.35 crore
(c) 0.29 crore (d) 0.421 crore

42. In how many years, India's annual foreign exchange earnings was more than the annual average foreign exchange

earnings?

- (a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) None of these

43 India's foreign exchange earning per 1000 tourists was maximum for the year

- (a) 1981 (b) 1980 (c) 1983 (d) 1982

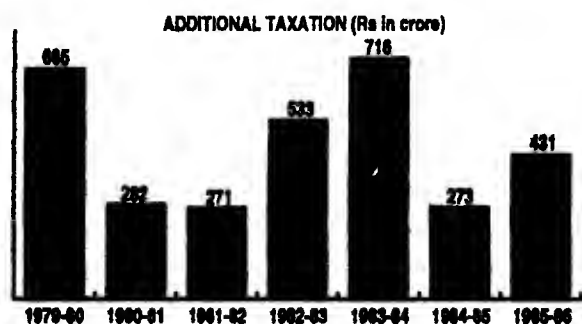
44 India's annual average foreign exchange earnings from 1980 to 1985 was approximately

- (a) 187.45 crore (b) 184.4 crore
(c) 192.5 crore (d) None of these

45 India's foreign exchange earnings per 1000 tourists in 1985 was what per cent of earnings in 1980 per 1000 tourists?

- (a) 215% (b) 307% (c) 254.4% (d) None of these

46-50 Study the graph carefully and answer the questions based on it



46 What was the per cent decline in additional taxes in 1985-86 as compared to 1983-84?

- (a) 39.8% (b) 25.6% (c) 50.9% (d) None of these

47 The increase in additional taxation in 1982-83 as compared to 1981-82 is

- (a) 96.67% (b) 85.7% (c) 92.3% (d) None of these

48 During which year the per cent increase in additional taxes is highest as compared to the previous year?

- (a) 1983-84 (b) 1982-83
(c) 1985-86 (d) None of these

49 The decrease in additional taxation in 1981-82 as compared to 1980-81 is

- (a) 4.1% (b) 3.9% (c) 2.6% (d) None of these

50 The annual average additional taxation from 1979-80 to 1985-86 is approx

- (a) 456 crore (b) 379 crore
(c) 516 crore (d) None of these

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- 1 (a) The least time required by the bells to toll together

$$= \text{LCM of } \frac{9}{8}, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{11}{8}, \frac{7}{4}, \frac{9}{4} = \frac{\text{LCM of } 9, 3, 11, 7, 9}{\text{HCF of } 8, 2, 8, 4, 4}$$

$$= \frac{693}{2} \text{ secs}$$

$$\text{Reqd no} = \left[3600 + \frac{693}{2} \right] + 1$$

$$= (10 + \text{a fraction}) + 1 = 11$$

(these bells also tolled together in the beginning)

- 2 (c) The fractions are in lowest terms

$$(3 + \text{a fraction}) (\text{integer} + \frac{2}{5}) = 13\frac{3}{4}$$

The integral portion of second no must be 4

$$3\frac{1}{*} \times 4\frac{2}{5} = 13\frac{3}{4} \quad \therefore 3\frac{1}{*} = 13\frac{3}{4} \div 4\frac{2}{5} = 3\frac{1}{8}$$

- 3 (b) Distance covered by passenger train in 4 hrs

$$= 90 \times 4 = 360 \text{ km}$$

Distance covered by goods train in $(6 + 4)$ i.e. 10 hrs
= 360 km

$$\text{Speed} = \frac{D}{T} = \frac{360}{10} = 36 \text{ km/hr}$$

- 4 (d) Let the third no be x 1st no = $x + 30\%$ of $x = \frac{13x}{10}$

$$\text{2nd no} = x + 40\% \text{ of } x = \frac{7x}{5}$$

$$\text{Let } \frac{13x}{10} = y\% \text{ of } \frac{7x}{5}$$

$$\frac{13x}{10} = y \times \frac{7x}{5 \times 100} \text{ or } y = \frac{650}{7} = 92\frac{6}{7}$$

- 5 (a) $L - B = 13$ (i)

$$2(L + B) = 34 \quad L + B = 17 \quad \text{(ii)}$$

On solving (i) and (ii) $L = 15, B = 2$

$$\text{Area} = 15 \times 2 = 30 \text{ m}^2$$

- 6 (a) Let no. of students be = 100, students failed in Hindi or English = $n(H \cup E) = n(H) + n(E) - n(H \cap E)$

$$= 36 + 54 - 20 = 70$$

Students passed in both subjects = $100 - 70 = 30$

- 7 (b) Work done by A and B in 1 day = $\frac{1}{10} + \frac{1}{15} = \frac{1}{6}$

$$\text{Work done by A and B in 5 days} = \frac{5}{6}$$

$$\text{Remaining work} = 1 - \frac{5}{6} = \frac{1}{6}$$

A can do a job in 10 days

$$\text{A can do } \frac{1}{6} \text{ of job in } 10 \times \frac{1}{6} = \frac{5}{3} = 1\frac{2}{3} \text{ days}$$

- 8 (c) Let C.P. be Rs x S.P. = $x + x\%$ of $x = 144$

$$x^2 + 100x - 14400 = 0 \Rightarrow x = 80, -180$$

As C.P. can't be -ve. $\therefore x = \text{Rs } 80$

- 9 (a) Use $(a + b)^2 - (a - b)^2 = 4ab$

$$20^2 - 14^2 = 4ab \quad \therefore ab = 51$$

- 10 (c) Amount collected by all the students = $49 - 13 = \text{Rs } 36$

$$\text{Let the no. of students be } x \quad \therefore x^2 = 3600 \Rightarrow x = 60$$

- 11 (b) Let the digit at unit's place be x and in ten's place be y . Original no. = $10y + x$

No. formed by reversing the digits = $10x + y$

$$\text{Difference} = 10y + x - (10x + y) = 9(y - x)$$

$$= 9 \times 7 = 63$$

- 12 (b) Total temp from 10th to 16th = $32 \times 8 - 35^\circ = 221^\circ\text{C}$

$$\text{Temp on 17th} = 30 \times 8 - 221^\circ\text{C} = 19^\circ\text{C}$$

13. (a) $\frac{x+y}{x-y} = \frac{\frac{x}{y}+1}{\frac{x}{y}-1} = \frac{5+1}{5-1} = \frac{3}{2}$
14. (d) $1.07(65 + 26 + 9) = 1.07 \times 100 = 107$
15. (a) Let C.P. = Rs 100
S.P. = $100 + 30 = \text{Rs } 130$
Discount = 10%
 \therefore Net S.P. = $130 - \frac{10}{100} \times 130 = 117$
 \therefore Net gain = 17%
16. (b) $\frac{a^3+b^3}{a^2-ab+b^2} = a+b = 0347 + .9653 = 1.0000 = 1$
17. (c) $x : \frac{4}{9} = \frac{3}{11} : \frac{5}{33} \therefore x = \frac{3}{11} \times \frac{4}{9} \times \frac{33}{5} = \frac{4}{5}$
18. (c) 8 men = 12 boys, 20 men = $\frac{12}{8} \times 20 = 30$ boys
20 men + 6 boys = $30 + 6 = 36$ boys
It is a case of inverse variation
36 boys · 12 boys = 16 days · x days
 $x \times 36 = 12 \times 16 \Rightarrow x = \frac{12 \times 16}{36} = 5\frac{1}{3}$ days
19. (c) $0579 = \frac{579-0}{9990} = \frac{579}{9990}$
 \therefore Reqd. fraction = $\frac{579}{9990}$
20. (a) More men, less days 900 : 600
Less ounces, more days 15 : 18
 $\therefore x = \frac{35 \times 600 \times 18}{900 \times 15} = 28$ days
21. (b) Population 3 years ago $\times (\frac{105}{100})^3 = \text{Present population}$
 $= 138915$
 \therefore Reqd. population = $138915 \times (\frac{100}{105})^3 = 120000$
22. (c) Rs 5 are saved by the worker in 2 days
 \therefore Rs 40 will be saved in $\frac{2}{5} \times 40 = 16$ days
On 17th day, he again earned Rs 20, so on that day, he first had Rs 60 with him
23. (a) Vol. of earth dug out = $25 \times 20 \times 15 = 7500 \text{ cu. m}$
Area of the field over which earth is evenly spread
 $= 400 \times 20 - 25 \times 20 = 7500 \text{ m}^2$
 \therefore Rise in level of field = $\frac{\text{Vol. of earth dug out}}{7500 \text{ m}^2}$
 $= \frac{7500 \text{ cu. m}}{7500 \text{ m}^2} = 1 \text{ m}$
24. (c) Difference = $2315.25 - 2205 = \text{Rs } 110.25 = \frac{441}{4}$
Rs $\frac{441}{4}$ is S.I. on Rs 2205 for 1 year
 $\therefore R\% = \frac{\text{S.I.} \times 100}{P \times T} = \frac{441}{4} \times \frac{100}{2205 \times 1} = 5$

25. (d)
- | | Rs | 50p | 25p | 10p | 5p |
|----------------|----|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Ratio of coins | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 8 |
| Ratio of value | 2 | $\frac{3}{2}$ | $\frac{5}{4}$ | $\frac{4}{10}$ | $\frac{8}{20}$ |
| or | 2 | 1.50 | 1.25 | .40 | .40 |
- Total value = $2 + 1.50 + 1.25 + .40 + .40 = \text{Rs } 5.55$
No. of 5 p coins = $\frac{8}{5.55} \times 444 = 640$
26. (d) Let B's income be Rs 100 \therefore A's income = Rs 125
When A earns Rs 125, B earns Rs 25 less
When A earns Rs 100, B earns = $\frac{25}{125} \times 100 = 20$ less
 \therefore B's income is 20% less than A's
27. (b) To realise $(84\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4})$ i.e. Rs 84, stock sold = Rs 100
 \therefore To realise Rs 12600 stock sold = $\frac{100}{84} \times 12600 = \text{Rs } 15000$
28. (b) C.P. of Rs 100 stock = $96\frac{7}{8} + \frac{1}{8} = \text{Rs } 97$
S.P. of Rs 100 stock = $99\frac{3}{8} - \frac{1}{8} = \text{Rs } 99\frac{1}{4}$
Gain = $99\frac{1}{4} - 97 = 2\frac{1}{4}$
When gain is Rs $2\frac{1}{4}$, investment = Rs 97
When gain is Rs 90, investment = $97 \times \frac{4}{9} \times 90 = \text{Rs } 3880$
29. (a)
- | | | |
|----|------|---------------------------------|
| 4 | 47 | |
| | 2286 | |
| | 6 | Reqd. no. to be subtracted = 77 |
| 87 | 686 | |
| | 609 | |
| | 77 | |
30. (a) Let the width of walk be x m
Area of rect ABCD = $40 \times 35 = 1400 \text{ sq m}$
Area of rect PQRS = $(40 - 2x) \times (35 - 2x)$
Area of walk = $1400 - (40 - 2x)(35 - 2x) = 650$
On solving, we get $x = 5$ or $x = 2.5$
But $x \neq 32.5 \therefore x = 5 \text{ m}$
31. (b) Area of 4 walls = $2(L + B) \times H = 2 \times 4H \times H$
 $= 8H^2$ ($H = \frac{1}{4}(L + B)$)
 $\therefore L + B = 4 + 1$
Cost of papering = $8H^2 \times \frac{10}{100} = 80$
 $\therefore H^2 = 100$ or $H = 10 \text{ m}$
32. (d) $2\pi r = 440 \therefore r = 70 \text{ m}$
R(Radius of outer circle) = $70 + 10 = 80 \text{ m}$
Area of track = $\pi \times 80^2 - \pi \times 70^2 = \frac{33000}{7} \text{ m}^2$ ($\pi = \frac{22}{7}$)

$$\text{Cost of levelling the track} = \frac{33000}{7} \times \frac{7}{100} = \text{Rs } 330$$

$$33. (a) \text{ Vol of a brick} = \frac{25}{100} \times \frac{25}{200} \times \frac{15}{200} = \frac{3}{1280} \text{ cu. m}$$

$$\text{Vol of a wall} = 6 \times 5 \times \frac{5}{10} = 15 \text{ cu. m}$$

$$\text{Vol occupied by mortar} = \frac{1}{20} \times 15 = \frac{3}{4} \text{ cu. m}$$

$$\text{Vol of wall occupied by bricks} = 15 - \frac{3}{4} = \frac{57}{4} \text{ cu. m}$$

$$\therefore \text{No of bricks} = \frac{\frac{57}{4}}{\frac{3}{1280}} = \frac{57}{4} \times \frac{1280}{3} = 6080$$

$$34. (a) \text{ Vol of water} = \frac{25}{4} \times \frac{20 \times 4 \times 28 \times 16}{1000} = 224 \text{ cu dm}$$

$$\text{Area of the cistern} = 8 \times 7 = 56 \text{ sq dm}$$

$$\text{Depth of water} = \frac{V}{A} = \frac{224}{56} = 4 \text{ dm}$$

$$1 \text{ ton} = 20 \text{ hwt}$$

$$1 \text{ hwt} = 4 \text{ quarters}$$

$$1 \text{ quarter} = 28 \text{ lb}$$

$$1 \text{ lb} = 16 \text{ oz}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} 1 \text{ ton} = 20 \text{ hwt} \\ 1 \text{ hwt} = 4 \text{ quarters} \\ 1 \text{ quarter} = 28 \text{ lb} \\ 1 \text{ lb} = 16 \text{ oz} \end{array} \right\} \therefore 1 \text{ ton} = 1 \times 20 \times 4 \times 28 \times 16 \text{ oz}$$

$$35. (b) \text{ Let the investment at 6\% be Rs } x$$

$$\therefore \text{Let the investment at 5\%} = \text{Rs } (1500 - x)$$

$$\text{A.T.S. } \frac{x \times 6 \times 1}{100} + (1500 - x) \times \frac{5}{100} \times 1 = 85 \Rightarrow x = 1000$$

$$36. (a) \text{ Make sets of two, the second nos. are the squares of first nos. In place of 15, it should be 16.}$$

$$37. (d) \text{ Each no. is double +1 of the preceding no. In place of}$$

23 it should be 21.

$$38. (d) \text{ Each no. is the product of its two preceding nos. In place of 586, it should be 576.}$$

$$39. (c) \text{ All nos. except 38 are prime nos. It should be 37.}$$

$$40. (b) \text{ It should be 64 as the series is } 1^3, 2^3, 3^3, 4^3, 5^3, \dots$$

$$41. (d) \text{ Reqd earning per 1000 tourists in 1983} = \frac{225000}{533951} = 0.421 \text{ crore}$$

$$42. (b) \text{ Average annual earnings} = \frac{1}{6} (1106.5 \text{ crore}) = 184.42 \text{ crore}$$

$$43. (c) \quad 44. (b)$$

$$45. (c) \text{ Earnings/1000 tourists during 1980} = \frac{71100}{409895} = 1734 \text{ crore}$$

$$\text{Earnings/1000 tourists during 1985} = \frac{330000}{747995} = 0.4418 \text{ crore}$$

$$\text{Reqd \%} = \frac{4418}{1734} \times 100 = 254.4$$

$$46. (a) \frac{716 - 431}{716} \times 100 = 39.8\%$$

$$47. (a) \text{ Reqd \%} = \frac{533 - 271}{271} \times 100 = 96.67\%$$

$$48. (b)$$

$$49. (b) \frac{282 - 271}{282} \times 100 = 3.9\%$$

$$50. (a) \text{ Annual average additional taxation} = \frac{1}{7} (3191) \text{ crore} = 456 \text{ crore approx}$$

TEST OF REASONING

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GENERAL AWARENESS

West Bengal Public Service Commission

Miscellaneous Services Recruitment Examination held on April 13, 1997

We are grateful to Saroshri Rajnish Singh of Howrah, Biswajit Sankar of North 24 Parganas, Ram Prosad Das of Matari (Dt Nadia), Sudipta Sengupta of Howrah, Khalid Qaisar of P.O. Ghosuri (Howrah) and many others of our esteemed readers who have sent this original paper to us.

- The Constituent Assembly of India held its first session on:
 - 15th August, 1947
 - 9th December, 1946
 - 26th November, 1949
 - 26th January, 1950
- The Preamble to the Constitution of India was amended by the:
 - 24th Amendment
 - 42nd Amendment
 - 44th Amendment
 - None of these
- The leader of the Lok Sabha is:
 - the Prime Minister
 - the Speaker
 - the President
 - the Vice-President
- A Governor of a State retires at the age of:
 - 60
 - 62
 - 65
 - there is no age limit
- Which of the following is not provided for in the Constitution?
 - Election Commission
 - Finance Commission
 - Public Service Commission
 - Planning Commission
- The first Speaker of the Lok Sabha was:
 - Hukum Singh
 - G.S. Dhillon
 - G.V. Mavalankar
 - Ananthasayanam Ayenger
- President's rule at the Centre can be imposed:
 - during external emergency
 - during internal emergency
 - during external and internal emergency
 - at no time
- Who can participate in the business of Parliament without being a member?
 - Vice-President
 - Solicitor General
 - Attorney General
 - Chief Justice
- Who decides whether a bill is a 'Money bill'?
 - the Speaker of Lok Sabha
 - the President of India
 - the Prime Minister
 - Parliamentary Select Committee
- The Governor of a State is responsible for his acts to:
 - the State Legislature
 - the Lok Sabha
 - the President
 - the Prime Minister
- The vacancy in the office of the President must be filled up within:
 - 90 days
 - 6 months
 - 1 year
 - the period decided by the President
- The President nominates to the Rajya Sabha:

- 10 members
 - 20 members
 - 15 members
 - 12 members
- The Fundamental Rights under the Indian Constitution can be suspended during:
 - general election
 - national emergency
 - all types of emergencies
 - in all the above situations
 - The concept of Welfare State is found in the Indian Constitution in the:
 - Preamble
 - Fundamental Rights
 - Directive Principles
 - Fundamental Duties
 - The Women's singles title at the Australian Open Tennis Championship, 1997 was won by:
 - Steffi Graf
 - Marie Pierce
 - Martina Hingis
 - Jana Novotna
 - The Centennial Olympic Games were held at:
 - Atlanta
 - Paris
 - Barcelona
 - Berlin
 - The 20th Lifebuoy Federation Cup, 1996 was won by:
 - East Bengal
 - J.C.T., Phagwara
 - Salgaoncar
 - Dempo Sports Club
 - 'Bunker' is a term associated with:
 - Horse racing
 - Wrestling
 - Golf
 - Polo
 - Yankee Stadium is associated with:
 - Rugby
 - Boxing
 - Tennis
 - Shooting
 - The first woman to conquer Mt Everest is:
 - Dicky Dolma
 - Bachendri Pal
 - Junko Tabei
 - Santosh Yadav
 - The name of the king who did not belong to the Khilji dynasty is:
 - Jalaluddin
 - Alauddin
 - Ruknudin
 - Malik Kafur
 - The Olympic emblem is composed of five rings of different colours of which the yellow represents:
 - Europe
 - America
 - Asia
 - Africa
 - The Men's title in the National Basketball Championship, 1997 has been won by:
 - Railways
 - Punjab
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Haryana
 - The Champions Trophy Hockey Tournament held in Berlin was won by:
 - Germany
 - Netherlands
 - Australia
 - Pakistan
 - Badauni appeared in the court of:
 - Alauddin
 - Humayun
 - Akbar
 - Aurangzeb
 - The Men's singles title in the Yonex All England Badminton Championship, 1997 has been won by:

- (a) Heryanto Arbi (b) Sun Yun
(c) Dong Jiong (d) Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen
27. The 28th International Film Festival of India was held at:
(a) Ernakulam (b) Thiruvananthapuram
(c) Mumbai (d) Chennai
28. The Golden Peacock Award for the best film at the 27th International Film Festival of India held in New Delhi in 1996 went to:
(a) 12 Monkeys (b) Brave Heart
(c) On the Beat (d) Blush
29. Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan is a famous:
(a) Folk singer (b) Quawwali singer
(c) Pop singer (d) Hindustani classical singer
30. *Ottam Thullal* is a dance form of the State of:
(a) Karnataka (b) Tamil Nadu
(c) Kerala (d) Andhra Pradesh
31. The holder of the world record of non-stop Kathak dance performance for 15 hours is held by:
(a) Roshan Kumari (b) Ruchi Sharma
(c) Sudha Chandran (d) Yamini Krishnamurthi
32. Franz Joseph Hayden, the famous composer belonged to:
(a) Germany (b) Austria
(c) Italy (d) Poland
33. *The Last Supper* is a painting by:
(a) Leonardo da Vinci (b) Michael Angelo
(c) Raphael (d) Titian
34. Pick out the wrong combination:
(a) Henrik Ibsen—The Wild Duck
(b) Oscar Wilde—The Ideal Husband
(c) William Shakespeare—Coriolanus
(d) Bernard Shaw—Camino Real
35. The 1995 Nobel Prize for literature was won by:
(a) James Kelman (b) Seamus Heaney
(c) Kenzaburo Oe (d) Mohammad Dile
36. Where was the Fourth International Energy Conference held?
(a) India (b) Venezuela
(c) Austria (d) Brazil
37. The Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM) is a political movement in:
(a) Pakistan (b) Afghanistan
(c) Iran (d) Bangladesh
38. To which foreigner was the Bharat Ratna award given in 1990?
(a) Nelson Mandela (b) Gorbachev
(c) Margaret Thatcher (d) Saddam Hussain
39. The newly elected Prime Minister of Pakistan is:
(a) Benazir Bhutto (b) Imran Khan
(c) Miraj Khaled (d) Nawaz Sharif
40. The World Food Summit, 1996 was held in:
(a) Mumbai (b) Washington D.C.
(c) Tokyo (d) Rome
41. The present Chief Election Commissioner of India is:
(a) T.N. Seshan (b) Krishnamurthy
(c) M.S. Gill (d) A.N. Ahmadi
42. The Magsaysay Award for 1996 in community leadership went to:
(a) Pandurang Shastri Athavale
(b) Nich Joaquin

- (c) Mrinal Gore (d) Pupul Jayakar
43. The new name of Madras is:
(a) Chennai (b) Chengkal
(c) Madiras (d) Kochi
44. James D. Wolfensohn is the:
(a) President of the World Bank
(b) Director General of WHO
(c) Managing Director, IMF
(d) Chairman, European Common Market
45. The Chairman of the 10th Finance Commission was:
(a) N.K.P. Salve (b) Vasant Sathe
(c) K.C. Pant (d) N. Singh
46. The British control over Hong Kong will end in:
(a) 1998 (b) 1997 (c) 1999 (d) 2010
47. The new Chief Minister of Punjab is:
(a) Prakash Singh Badal
(b) Gurcharan Singh Tohra
(c) Simranjit Singh Mann
(d) Kanwaljit Singh
48. The year 1998 has been designated as the International Year of the:
(a) deprived child (b) disabled
(c) oceans (d) sports
49. The doctor claiming to transplant the heart of a pig in a human body is:
(a) Dr Christian Bernard
(b) Dr Dhaniram Barua
(c) Dr A.N. Joglekar
(d) Dr K.C. Reddy
50. The Indian cricketer who has been appointed by the UNICEF as a national ambassador is:
(a) Ravi Shastri (b) Kapil Dev
(c) Sunil Gavaskar (d) Mohinder Amarnath
51. A major train derailment took place in Pakistan on:
(a) 28th February, 1997 (b) 1st March, 1997
(c) 2nd March, 1997 (d) 3rd March, 1997
52. In December, 1995, USA withdrew from:
(a) UNICEF (b) UNDP
(c) UNEPA (d) UNIDO
53. The Chief of the Enron Project is:
(a) Rebecca West (b) Lee Iacoca
(c) Dr Kenneth Olson (d) None of them
54. The cloning of a monkey was first done in:
(a) England (b) U.S.A.
(c) Scotland (d) Russia
55. The General Agreement on Trade and Tariff was replaced by:
(a) Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
(b) European Free Trade Association
(c) World Trade Organisation
(d) European Economic Community
56. *Denapona* is a short story written by:
(a) Saratchandra (b) Rabindranath
(c) Tarasankar (d) Neerupama Debi
57. *Last Ride Together* is a poem composed by:
(a) Wordsworth (b) Browning
(c) Keats (d) Tennyson
58. Who is the author of Sanskrit poem *Mrghadutam*?
(a) Banbhata (b) Kalidas
(c) Vash (d) Jaidev

59. The famous song *Vandemataram* is written in Bankim Chandra's novel:

- (a) Krishna Kanter Will (b) Bishbriksha
(c) Sitaram (d) Anandamath

60. In Saratchandra's story, 'Mahesh' is the name of:

- (a) an ox (b) a cow
(c) a donkey (d) a man

61. Which of these was not written by Rabindranath?

- (a) Manashi (b) Geetanjali
(c) Bisher Banshi (d) Purabi

62. Find the odd man out:

- (a) Hardy (b) Hemingway
(c) Dickens (d) Copernicus

63. Rabindranath's *Raktakarabi* is a:

- (a) drama (b) poem
(c) story (d) novel

64. The *Jats* were written in:

- (a) Pali (b) Prakrit
(c) Maghadi (d) Bengali

65. What is the real name of *Jatai* in Satyajit Ray's stories?

- (a) Tapesh Mitra (b) Pradosh Mitra
(c) Lalmohan Ganguly (d) Biram Banerjee

66. The name of the detective in Nihar Ranjan Gupta's crime stories is:

- (a) Bimal (b) Kiriti
(c) Byomkesh (d) Pratul

67. Find out which is incorrect:

- (a) Saibalini—Chandrasekhar
(b) Rama—Ramesh
(c) Labanya—Amit
(d) Kapalkundala—Govindalal

68. The famous dramatist Henrik Ibsen is a:

- (a) Norwegian (b) German
(c) Pole (d) Spaniard

69. *Desdemona* is a character of Shakespeare's:

- (a) Macbeth (b) Hamlet
(c) Othello (d) Julius Caesar

70. Find out the odd name:

- (a) Wordsworth (b) Keats
(c) Shelley (d) Newton

71. Which of the following is not a work of Dickens?

- (a) David Copperfield
(b) Oliver Twist
(c) The Old Curiosity Shop
(d) Treasure Island

72. The *Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner* is a poem by:

- (a) Walter de la Mare (b) Tennyson
(c) Coleridge (d) Milton

73. Who was the assistant of Sherlock Holmes?

- (a) Dr Wilson (b) Dr Johnson
(c) Dr Watson (d) Dr Williams

74. Pick out the wrong combination:

- (a) War and Peace—Leo Tolstoy
(b) Hamlet—Shakespeare
(c) Paradise Lost—Milton
(d) Arms and the Man—Galsworthy

75. The book in which there is a description of the island of Lilliput is:

- (a) Robinson Crusoe (b) Gulliver's Travel
(c) Treasure Island



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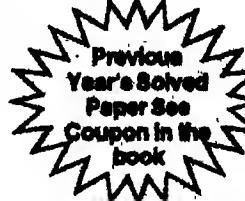


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- (d) Alice's Adventure in Wonderland
76. Mohenjodaro is situated in the district of:
 (a) Larkana (b) Montgomery
 (c) Ropar (d) Bundi
77. Sarnath is associated with the name of:
 (a) Ashoka (b) Bindusara
 (c) Samudragupta (d) Gopala
78. Which one of the following dynasties did not flourish in the Southern India?
 (a) Maurya (b) Chola
 (c) Chalukya (d) Pandya
79. Identify the author of *Rajatarangini*.
 (a) Kalhana (b) Bhasa
 (c) Bhavabhuti (d) Kalidas
80. The Sena was a ruling dynasty of:
 (a) Gujarat (b) Hastinapur
 (c) Magadh (d) Bengal
81. The name of the king who did not belong to the Slave Dynasty is:
 (a) Kaikobad (b) Khijir Khan
 (c) Aram Shah (d) Ghiyasuddin
82. Identify the name of the husband of Mehrunnisa:
 (a) Sher Afghan (b) Sher Ali
 (c) Sher Ali Khan (d) Sher Khan Sur
83. Peacock Throne is associated with the name of:
 (a) Shah Alam (b) Shah Nawaj
 (c) Shah Jahan (d) Jahangir
84. Abul Fazl appeared in the court of.
 (a) Alauddin (b) Humayun
 (c) Akbar (d) Aurangzeb
85. Identify the name of the English General:
 (a) Dupleix (b) Bussy
 (c) Coote (d) Lally
86. The name of the Governor-General at the time of Sepoy Mutiny is:
 (a) Hastings (b) Shore
 (c) Cornwallis (d) Canning
87. The first session of Indian National Congress was held in the city of:
 (a) Bombay (b) Calcutta
 (c) Madras (d) Allahabad
88. The order for partition of Bengal was passed in:
 (a) 1905 (b) 1906 (c) 1907 (d) 1908
89. The general who gave the firing order at Jallianwala Bag was:
 (a) Tegart (b) Dyer
 (c) Simpson (d) O'Dwyer
90. Identify the person responsible for Chittagong Armoury Raid:
 (a) Kshudiram (b) Surya Sen
 (c) Jatin Das (d) Bagha Jatin
91. Tornadoes are:
 (a) small intense cyclones
 (b) small intense anti-cyclones
 (c) warm ocean currents
 (d) depressions
92. Indian Standard Time is the local time of a place near:
 (a) Amritsar (b) Allahabad
 (c) Almora (d) Itarsi
93. The term 'epicentre' is associated with:

- (a) earthquakes (b) folding
 (c) faulting (d) earth's interior
94. Pick the odd one out:
 (a) Godavari (b) Tapti
 (c) Krishna (d) Damodar
95. Equinox means:
 (a) equal days and nights all over the earth
 (b) equal distance from the poles
 (c) equal barometric pressure at different places
 (d) equal temperature all over the region
96. Currently more than 45% of India's imports are from the countries of:
 (a) Asia and Oceania (b) Western Europe
 (c) North America (d) Africa
97. The longest dam of India is the:
 (a) Bhakra Dam (b) Nangal dam
 (c) Hirakud dam (d) Maithon dam
98. In wheat production India ranks second only to:
 (a) China (b) U.S.A.
 (c) Canada (d) Australia
99. Bandipur Sanctuary is located in the State of:
 (a) Tamil Nadu (b) Uttar Pradesh
 (c) Karnataka (d) Orissa
100. Zaire is the new name of:
 (a) Rhodesia (b) Congo
 (c) Gold Coast (d) Basutoland

ANSWERS

- | | | | |
|---------|--|----------|---------|
| 1. (c) | 2. (b) | 3. (b) | 4. (d) |
| 5. (d) | 6. (c) | 7. (c) | 8. (c) |
| 9. (a) | 10. (c) | 11. (b) | 12. (d) |
| 13. (b) | 14. (c) | 15. (c) | 16. (a) |
| 17. (b) | 18. (c) | 19. (b) | 20. (c) |
| 21. (c) | 22. (b) | 23. (c) | 24. (a) |
| 25. (c) | 26. (d) | 27. (b) | 28. (d) |
| 29. (b) | 30. (c) | 31. (b) | 32. (c) |
| 33. (a) | 34. (c) | | |
| 35. (b) | The 1996 Nobel Prize in literature was won by Polish poet Wislawa Szymborska. | | |
| 36. (a) | 37. (a) | 38. (a) | 39. (d) |
| 40. (d) | 41. (c) | 42. (a) | 43. (a) |
| 44. (a) | 45. (c) | 46. (b) | 47. (a) |
| 48. (a) | 49. (b) | 50. (a) | 51. (a) |
| 52. (c) | UNFPA stands for United Nations Fund for Population Activities. | | |
| 53. (a) | 54. (b) | 55. (c) | 56. (a) |
| 57. (b) | 58. (b) | 59. (d) | 60. (a) |
| 61. (c) | 62. (d) | 63. (a) | 64. (a) |
| 65. (a) | 66. (b) | 67. (d) | 68. (a) |
| 69. (c) | 70. (d) | 71. (d) | 72. (c) |
| 73. (c) | | | |
| 74. (d) | It is by G.B. Shaw. | | |
| 75. (b) | 76. (a) | 77. (a) | 78. (a) |
| 79. (a) | 80. (d) | 81. (b) | 82. (a) |
| 83. (c) | 84. (c) | | |
| 85. (c) | Sir Eyre Coote. He is associated with the Battle of Wandawash (1760) in which the English defeated the French. | | |
| 86. (d) | 87. (a) | 88. (a) | 89. (d) |
| 90. (b) | 91. (a) | 92. (b) | 93. (a) |
| 94. (b) | 95. (a) | 96. (b) | 97. (a) |
| 98. (b) | 99. (c) | 100. (b) | |

THIS MONTH YESTERDAY

September: Before and After Independence

Before Independence

The long-array of significant events that took place during the months of September in the pre-independence history of India include—announcement of partition of Bengal by the British Government on September 1, 1905; Bhagat Singh's abandoning hunger strike on prison reforms on September 14, 1929 following the death of Jatindra Nath Doss; signing of Poona Pact following Mahatma Gandhi's fast on September 24, 1932; Vinobha Bhave's quitting politics on September 6, 1935. However, in this section we shall focus on Indians diagrammatically apart approaches on the Second World War and the crisis that engulfed following the formation of 'Interim Government'.

India and World War-II

On September 3, 1939 with the commencement of the World War-II, the Viceroy Lord Linlithgow declared India a belligerent (nation) and issued an ordinance containing the most stringent powers for the suppression of internal disorder. The war brought out differences in the approaches of Subhas Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi into prominence once again.

On September 3, 1939, when the news about war reached Subhas Chandra Bose, who was addressing a mammoth meeting on the beach of Madras, he immediately switched over to the subject of war and said 'the much expected crises had at last come. This was India's golden opportunity'. Subhas Chandra Bose, apart from the general propaganda carried on by the Forward Bloc, undertook a lecture tour throughout the country.

In contrast, on September 6, after meeting the Viceroy, Mahatma Gandhi issued a press statement that 'in spite of the differences between India and Britain on the question of Indian Independence,

India should cooperate with Britain in her hour of danger'. Later, on September 11 the Viceroy announced that the inauguration of the Federal Constitution under the Act of 1935 was postponed for the duration of the war.

Interim Government

Following Lord Wavell's approving appointment of Interim Government proposed by the Congress Party, on September 2, 1946 Jawaharlal Nehru formed the Government. When Nehru was taking oath inside, a section of demonstrators outside shouted for having a Pakistan. Jinnah and his lieutenants pronounced that they would take what they wanted by force. On September 10, on being hurt about Jinnah's calling 'Hindus enemies', Gandhiji deplored the rising tide of communal passion in the country. In the third week of September, reports of killings and stabbing started pouring in from various places, prominently Calcutta, Dacca, Allahabad, Bombay. In the mean time Lord Wavell had meetings with Jinnah (September 15, 16, 25 and 28) and Mahatma Gandhi (September 26) to settle the crises which emerged on account of Muslim League's refusal to join the Interim Government.

After Independence

Prominent among the events which occurred during the months of September in the post independence history of India include, Merger of Hyderabad to India on September 18, 1948; Mihir Sen becoming first Indian to cross the English Channel on September 27, 1958; in the Indo-Pak war crossing of Indian troops into West Pakistan in Lahore Sector from three directions on September 6, 1965; inauguration of Salem Steel Plant by Indira Gandhi on September 16, 1970; inauguration of

Silent Valley National Park by Rajiv Gandhi on September 6, 1985.

In this section, we shall focus on 'Gandhiji's 14th Fast' and the 'World of Cricket'.

Gandhiji's 14th Fast

Following recrudescence of trouble in Calcutta, on September 1, 1948 Mahatma Gandhi began his fast 'to end only if and when sanity returns to Calcutta'. It was his 14th fast in India. In an unprecedented incident, when a Hindu youth who was assaulted was brought before Gandhiji, the agitated crowd started breaking glass panes and hurled a lathi, which missed him. The police had to use tear gas to disperse the crowd. On September 4, on receiving from the leaders of various parties a signed document reporting peace in the city, Mahatma Gandhi broke his fast. And after remaining in Calcutta for about a month, Gandhiji left for Delhi on September 7.

World of Cricket

In the world of cricket, Indians registered some epoch-making moments during the months of September. For instance, on September 20, 1979 Sunil Gavaskar became the first player in the Indian sub-continent to score 5000 runs in Test cricket and later, the feat was achieved by Vengasarkar on September 30, 1986. At Madras on September 17, 1982, while playing against Sri Lanka, Sunil Gavaskar scores his 25th century. On September 21, 1982 at Madras, India scored 566 for 6, its highest against Pakistan. Again at Madras, on September 22, 1986 India-Australia Test ended in a historic tie. And it was on September 30, 1987 that Rajiv Gandhi declared open the Reliance Cup tournament. It was also in September, 1994 that Ravi Shastri, announced his retirement from the First Class cricket and assumed the role of a commentator.

VOCABULARY

Improve Your Word Power

1. **ameliorate:** (a) annoy (b) repeat (c) improve (d) worsen.
2. **backtrack:** (a) satisfy (b) withdraw (c) betray (d) resent.
3. **collage:** (a) picture (b) institution (c) victory (d) publication.
4. **dragoon:** (a) agree (b) convince (c) convert (d) compel.
5. **eventuality:** (a) solution (b) boredom (c) attempt (d) result.
6. **fiesta:** (a) celebration (b) separation (c) ritual (d) tradition.
7. **grubby:** (a) dirty (b) powerful (c) careful (d) lovely.
8. **hawk:** (a) spoil (b) manage (c) offer (d) control.
9. **inveterate:** (a) temporary (b) deep-rooted (c) artificial (d) handsome.
10. **junket:** (a) disturbance (b) picnic (c) selection (d) dispute.
11. **kudos:** (a) arrival (b) welcome (c) crime (d) glory.
12. **lucrative:** (a) notorious (b) gentle (c) gainful (d) optional.
13. **melee:** (a) disorder (b) mixture (c) meeting (d) gallery.
14. **non-chalant:** (a) serious (b) lively (c) casual (d) colourful.
15. **otiose:** (a) careless (b) useless (c) senseless (d) tasteless.
16. **quip:** (a) hurt (b) modesty (c) operation (d) compromise.
17. **ragamuffin:** (a) regular (b) permanent (c) helpful (d) dirty.
18. **siphon (v):** (a) promote (b) transfer (c) migrate (d) calculate.
19. **turpitude:** (a) achievement (b) struggle (c) wickedness (d) blessing.
20. **unsavoury:** (a) defensive (b) abusive (c) offensive (d) affectionate.

ANSWERS

1. **ameliorate:** (c) improve.
—The emphasis in the Ninth Plan will be to *ameliorate* the living conditions of the poor.
2. **backtrack:** (b) withdraw.
—In the face of severe criticism by the opposition, the government was forced to *backtrack* its policy of total privatisation of sick units.
3. **collage:** (a) picture, film.
—India is a mosaic in which different pieces retain their identity while contributing to a colourful *collage*.
4. **dragoon:** (d) compel, force.
—Much against our wishes, we were *dragooned* into going to the opera.
5. **eventuality:** (d) result.
—Before launching a full scale offensive against the enemy, the country should be prepared for all possible *eventualities*.
6. **fiesta:** (a) celebration, festival, holiday.
—The tourism department conducted a five-day *fiesta* of fun

and frolic in the shape of beach festival at Puri.

7. **grubby:** (a) dirty, unwashed.
—(The) children should always be advised not to eat anything with *grubby* hands.
8. **hawk:** (c) offer, spread, sell.
—Those who claim to bring about revolutionary changes in the socio-economic scenario, resort to *hawking* dreams among the people.
9. **inveterate:** (b) deep-rooted, obstinate.
—It is time that all Indians, irrespective of their caste and community, get over their *inveterate* prejudices against one another.
10. **junket:** (b) picnic, feast.
—Most of the social gatherings like seminars or conferences are like a *junket* paid for with government money.
11. **kudos:** (d) glory, honour, credit.
—Life is such a dubious drama as brings less *kudos* and more kicks.
12. **lucrative:** (c) gainful, profitable, productive.
—Instead of running after white-collar jobs, the educated youth should show their merit in some *lucrative* business or enterprise.
13. **melee:** (a) disorder, confusion.
—All arrangements to control the people at the annual fair collapsed and the result was an unprecedented *melee*.
14. **non-chalant:** (c) casual, indifferent.
—The press and (the) people of the affected State have taken a strong exception to the Centre's *non-chalant* attitude towards the drought situation.
15. **otiose:** (b) useless, unnecessary.
—The speaker failed to impress the audience because his speech contained long, *otiose* passages of description.
16. **quip:** (a) hurt, annoyance.
—When he realized nobody was listening to him, he left the room in a fit of *quip*.
17. **ragamuffin:** (d) dirty, disreputable (person).
—Being a *ragamuffin* by nature and conduct, his company is avoided by one and all.
18. **siphon (v):** (b) transfer (illegally).
—During investigation, it was found the suspect had *siphoned* off huge amounts into foreign banks.
19. **turpitude:** (c) wickedness, depravity.
—All those found guilty of moral *turpitude* should be debarred from contesting elections.
20. **unsavoury:** (c) offensive, disreputable.
—A person carrying the label of *unsavoury* reputation, often fails to make friends and influence people.

TEST OF REASONING—H

Which number from (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) would come next in the series of numbers given below:

1. 17; 16; 20; 11; 27;...
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 7 (d) 9 (e) 18
2. 13; 12; 14; 24; 15;...
(a) 29 (b) 21 (c) 24 (d) 36 (e) 32
3. 2; 3; 8; 63;...
(a) 2411 (b) 1038 (c) 1998 (d) 3008 (e) 3968
4. 7; 10; 16; 25; 37;...
(a) 52 (b) 58 (c) 49 (d) 61 (e) 63
5. 4; 5; 9; 14; 23;...
(a) 29 (b) 31 (c) 39 (d) 37 (e) 35
6. 6; 7; 8; 12; 20;...
(a) 27 (b) 29 (c) 31 (d) 34 (e) 37
7. 25; 36; 49; 64;...
(a) 100 (b) 72 (c) 81 (d) 90 (e) 95
8. 5; 30; 6; 42; 7; 56;...
(a) 9 (b) 12 (c) 8 (d) 6 (e) 10

Find the odd-man out:

9. (a) BD6 (b) FH14 (c) JL22
(d) NP31 (e) RT38
10. (a) YX1 (b) WU2 (c) TQ3
(d) PM4 (e) KF5
11. (a) ABC6 (b) DEF15 (c) HIJ29
(d) MNO42 (e) STU60
12. (a) ZA25 (b) YB22 (c) WD18
(d) TG12 (e) PK4

Find out the missing number:

13.

6	7	5
8	2	8
4	9	?

- (a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 6 (d) 7 (e) 5

14.

9	2	13
7	16	?
8	6	10

- (a) 2 (b) 1 (c) 5 (d) 3 (e) 4

Questions 15 to 17 are based on the series of letters given below:

KQPCCKQPQPMKCPKQPKMPQKCQPPQM

15. How many Ps are preceded by Q but not followed by M?

- (a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5 (e) 6

16. Which two letters occur equal number of times in the series?

- (a) P & Q (b) P & K (c) Q & K
(d) K & M (e) C & M

17. What is the ratio in the frequency of P and K?

- (a) 1 : 2 (b) 4 : 3 (c) 2 : 3
(d) 3 : 2 (e) 3 : 1

18. A person has to draw seven lines on a sheet, each line has to be two times longer (double) of the previous line. If the first line is two cms. long the seventh line would be:

- (a) 32 cms (b) 64 cms (c) 128 cms
(d) 92 cms. (e) 96 cms

Which letters are missing in the series given below:

19. acb-ac-cacbc-cbca-b
(a) cbac (b) cbc (c) abac
(d) bbaa (e) cbc

20. cb-cbcac-c-acbca-b
(a) cab (b) abac (c) acbc
(d) baca (e) abbc

21. How many days are there between 26th Jan and 15th August during a leap year?

- (a) 198 (b) 199 (c) 200
(d) 201 (e) 202

A man has a basket of fruits containing 60 pieces. The number of apples is half of the number of coconuts and oranges are one-fourth of the total of apples and coconuts. The cost of each coconut is equal to the price of two apples or three oranges. There are no other fruits in the basket except coconuts, apples and oranges. Now answer the following questions:

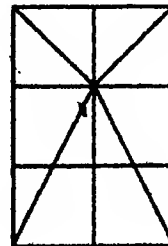
22. How many coconuts are there in the basket?

- (a) 36 (b) 28 (c) 42 (d) 38 (e) 40

23. If the total price of the fruits is Rs 660, what is the cost of an orange (per piece)?

- (a) Rs 3 (b) Rs 4 (c) Rs 5
(d) Rs 6 (e) Rs 7

Questions 24 and 25 are based on the figure given below:



24. How many triangles are there in the figure?

- (a) 8 (b) 13 (c) 14 (d) 15 (e) 17

25. How many squares are there?

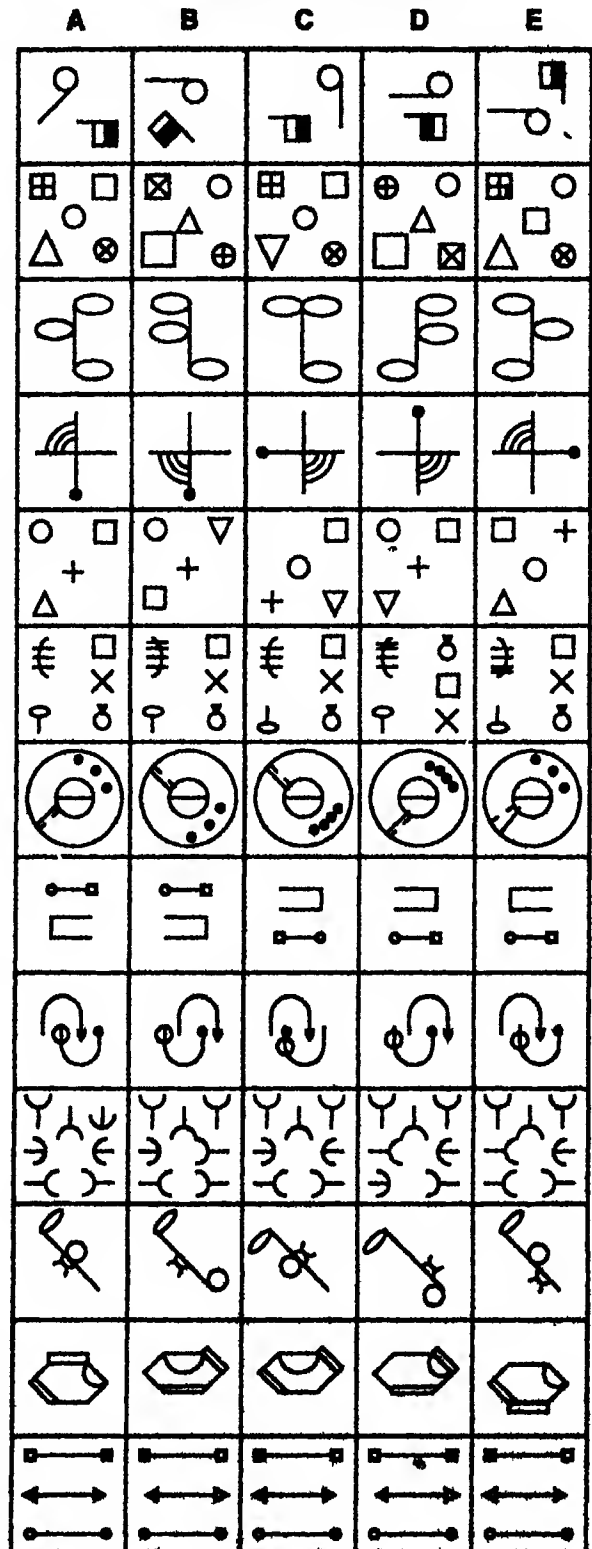
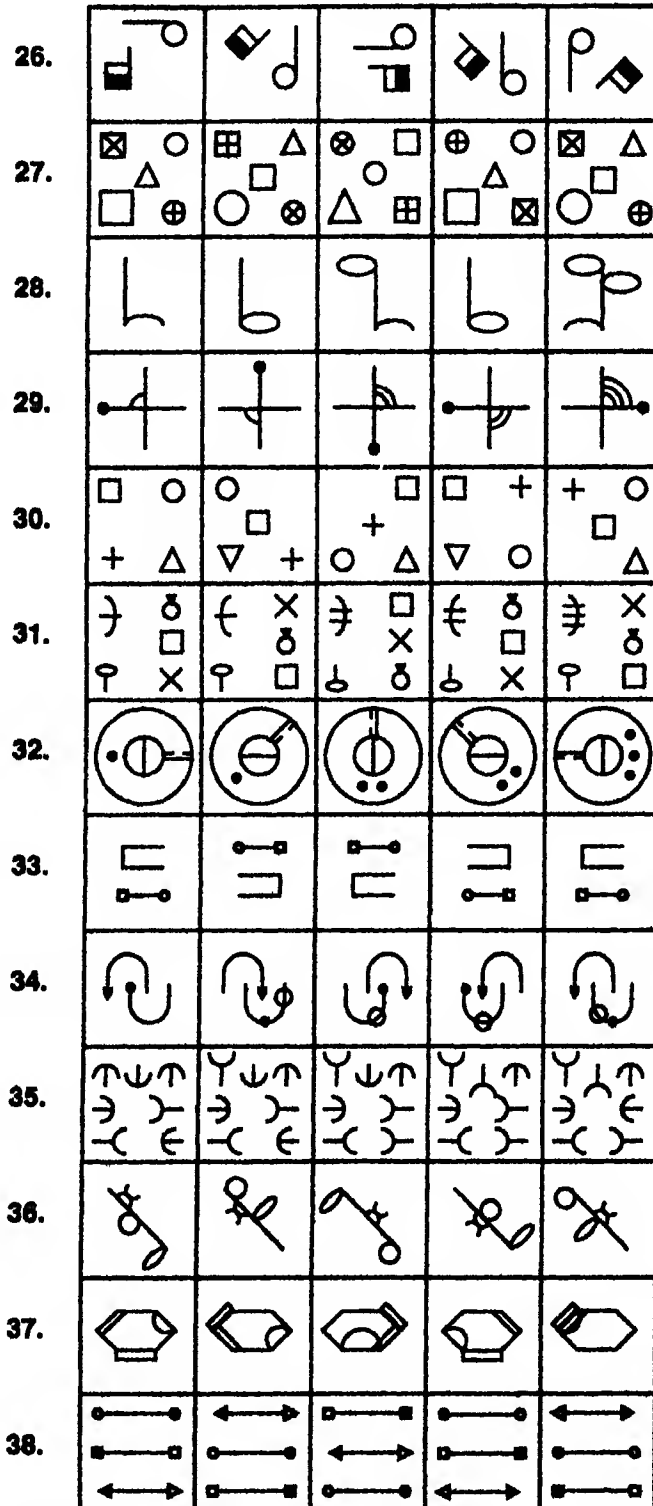
- (a) 6 (b) 7 (c) 8 (d) 9 (e) 10

NON-VERBAL SERIES

Given below are two sets of figures, the Problem Figures and the Answer Figures marked A, B, C, D and E. You have to find out which of the Answer Figures would come next in the series of Problem Figures.

PROBLEM FIGURES

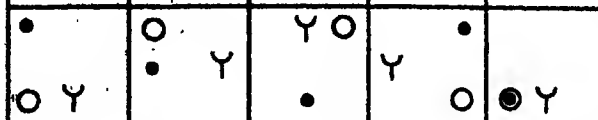
ANSWER FIGURES



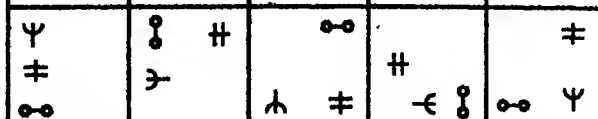
39.



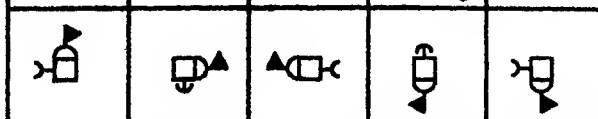
40.



41.



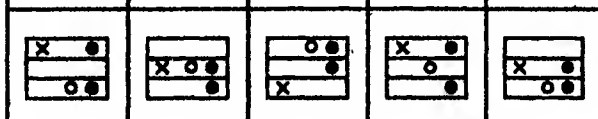
42.



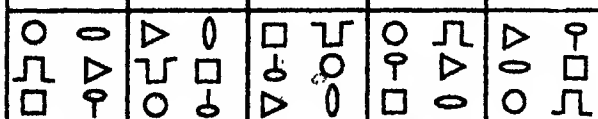
43.



44.



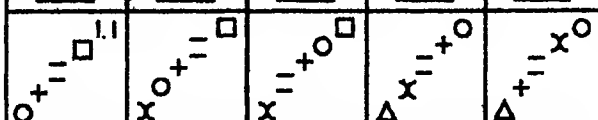
45.



46.



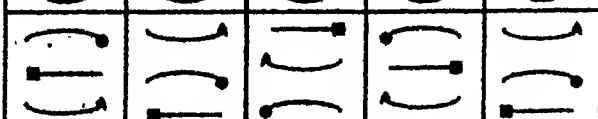
47.



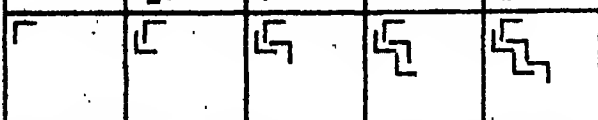
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49.



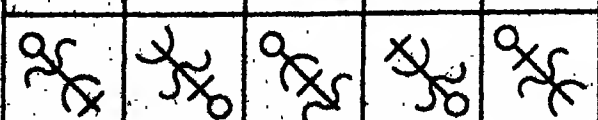
50.



51.



52.



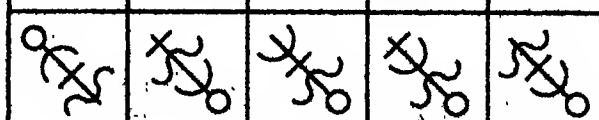
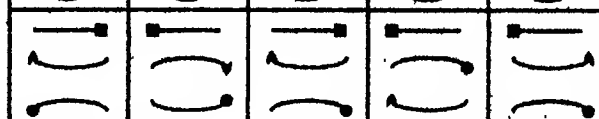
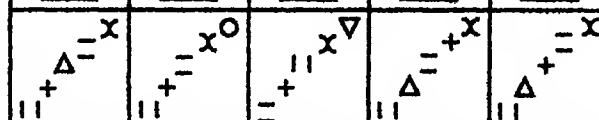
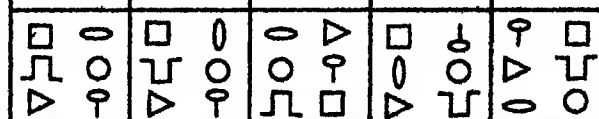
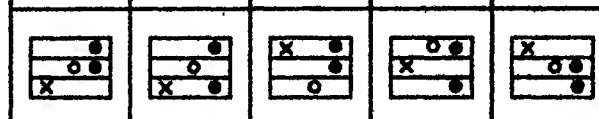
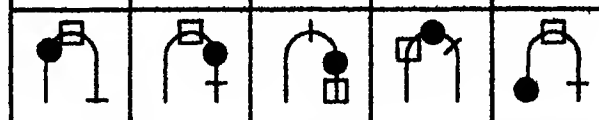
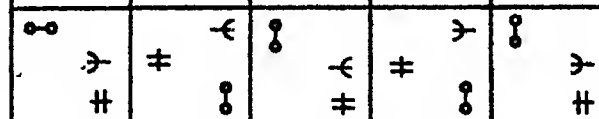
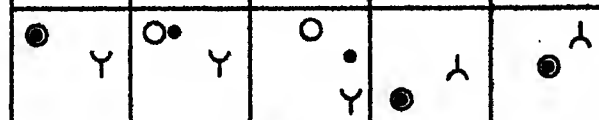
A

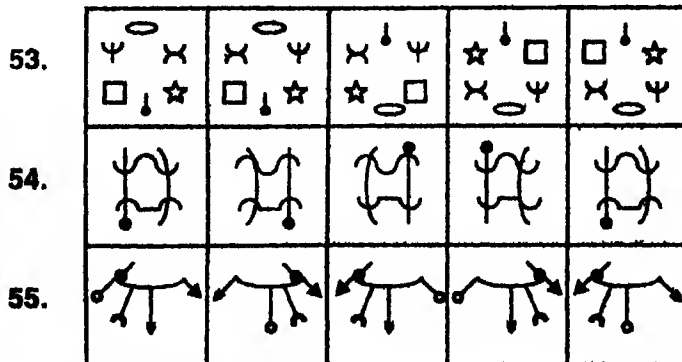
B

C

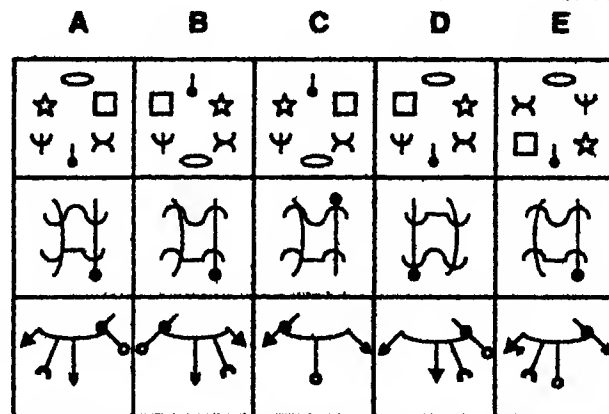
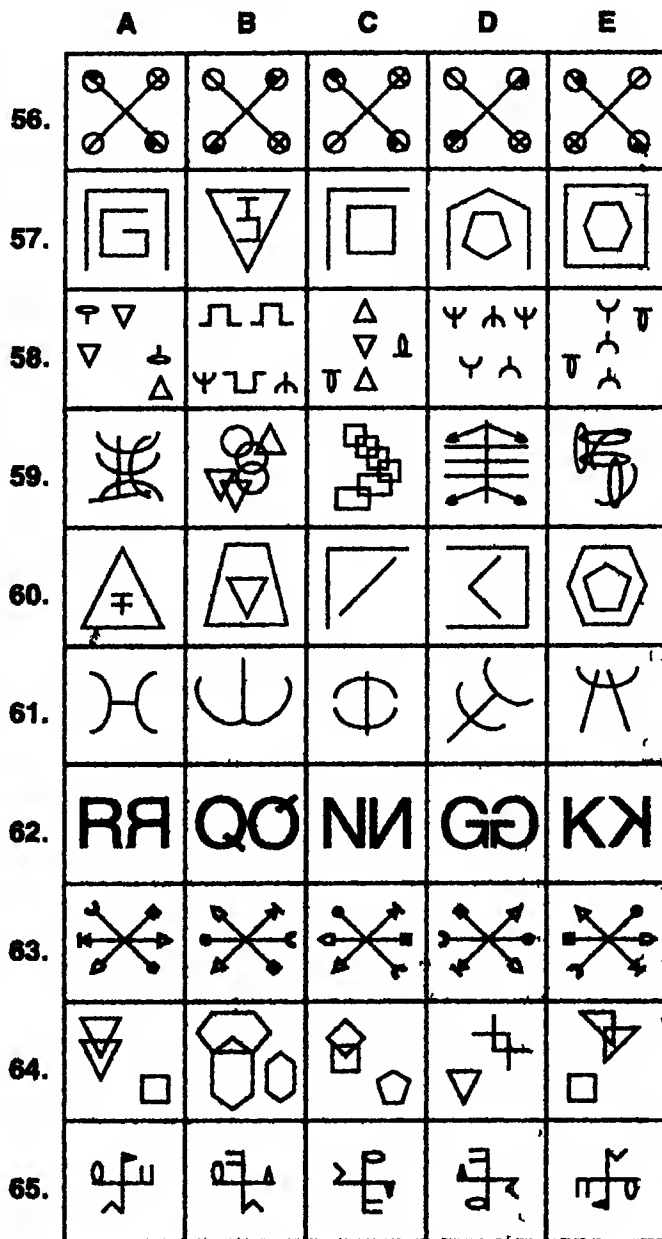
D

E

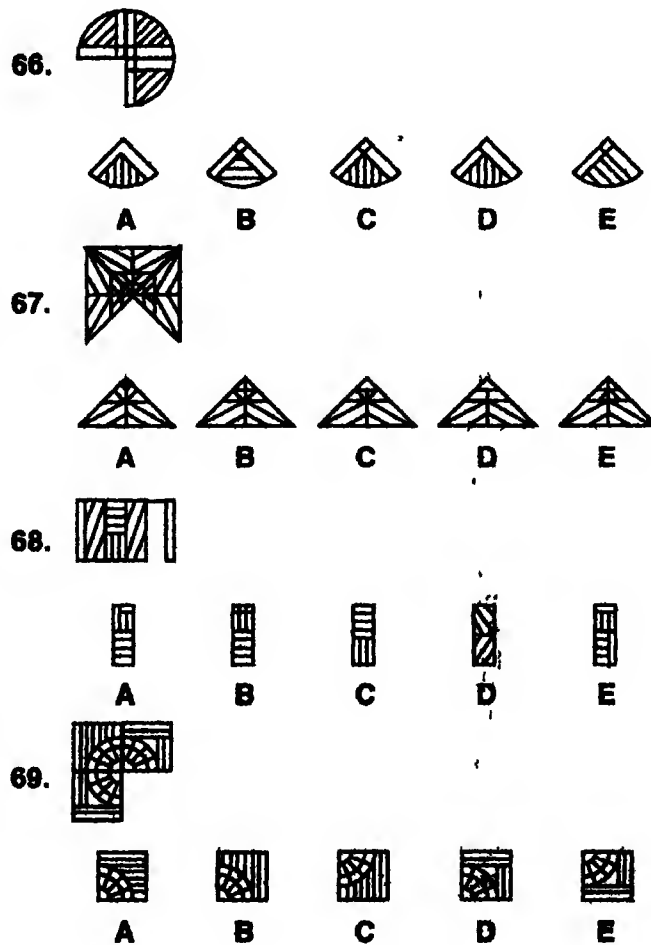




Find the odd-man out:



Find out the missing portion. The figure can be tilted or turned.



In questions 70 to 75, Problem Figures I and II have a definite relationship. You have to find out which of the Answer Figures from A, B, C, D and E have an identical relationship with Figure III?

	PROBLEM FIGURES				ANSWER FIGURES				
	I	II	III	IV	A	B	C	D	E
70.				?					
71.				?					
72.				?					
73.				?					
74.				?					
75.				?					

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- (b) The arrangement is, $-1^2 + 2^2 - 3^2 + 4^2 - 5^2$.
- (d) There are two series, 13, 14, 15 ... and 12, 24, 36.
- (e) Each next number is square -1 of the preceding number.
- (a) Go on adding 3, 6, 9, 12 ... to numbers.
- (d) Each number is the total of its two preceding numbers.
- (b) Go on adding $1^2, 1^3, 2^2, 2^3, 3^2$... to numbers.
- (c) The arrangement is $5^2, 6^2, 7^2$...
- (c) Each alternate number is the product of numbers on its right and left.

For solving the next four questions, write the alphabets from A to Z and number them 1 to 26

- (d) The number with letters is the total of their number in the alphabetical order.
- (d) The position of the letters shifts by one letter more.
- (c) Add the numbers of the three consecutive letters.
- (a) The numbers are the total of letters in between the two given letters.
- (e) The total of the numbers linewise and columnwise is 18.
- (b) Here the linewise and columnwise total is 24.
- (c) 16. (e) 17. (b) 18. (c)
- (a) The series is acbc/acbc/acbc ...
- (e) The series is cbac/cbac/cbac ...
- (d) 22. (e) 23. (b) 24. (d) 25. (c)

26. to 55. For solving these questions, keep the following guidelines in your mind:

- Study each figure given in the question separately, as well as in context and relationship with other figures.
- All the figures needn't move in the same direction or at the same pace. The movement may be clockwise, anti-clockwise, up and down, right and left, corner to corner or along certain points. (Examples: 27, 31, 38, 40, 41 etc.)

- Some figures may change size, tilt, rotate or turn upside down during movement. This change may be regular or they may change alternately (Examples: 27, 31, 54 etc.)
- Something may be added or dropped from the figures. (Examples: 28, 29, 39, 46, 47, 50 etc.)
- Some figures may remain at their place but may change direction according to a set pattern or they may interchange places with certain figures (Examples: 33, 35, 45, 53 etc.)

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. D | 27. A | 28. E | 29. B | 30. D |
| 31. A | 32. E | 33. B | 34. E | 35. C |
| 36. B | 37. C | 38. E | 39. C | 40. B |
| 41. E | 42. C | 43. B | 44. A | 45. D |
| 46. A | 47. E | 48. C | 49. E | 50. A |
| 51. B | 52. E | 53. D | 54. B | 55. D |
- B. The direction and arrangement is wrong.
 - D. In all the others the inner figure has two sides more than the outer figure.
 - E. In all the others, one of the two figures is turned upside down.
 - B. In all the others four figures are similar while the remaining two are alike; here three figures are alike.
 - A. The inner figure ought to have one side less. Here they are equal.
 - E. All the others have two curved lines and one straight line; here it is the other way round.
 - B. All the others are mirror images in the same direction.
 - C. The positions are wrong.
 - B. The lonely figure ought to have one arm more.
 - B. The direction is wrong.
 - C 67. E 68. B 69. C 70. E
 - B 72. D 73. A 74. B 75. A

TEST OF REASONING—II

Find the odd-man out:

1. (a) sip (b) drink (c) chew
(d) gulp (e) sup
2. (a) owl (b) parrot (c) falcon
(d) hawk (e) eagle
3. (a) pagoda (b) church (c) temple
(d) mosque (e) monastery
4. (a) veena (b) mridangam (c) cymbals
(d) drum (e) tabla
5. (a) skates (b) toboggan (c) ski
(d) canoe (e) sledge
6. (a) curlew (b) albatross (c) ostrich
(d) gull (e) flamingo
7. (a) broker (b) customer (c) salesman
(d) hawker (e) monger
8. (a) correction (b) improvement (c) betterment
(d) elevation (e) advancement

Qs. 9-16. In each question below are given two items that have a definite relationship between them. Your task is to find out from (a), (b), (c) and (d) the pair of items with the same relationship.

9. arrow : bow
(a) wicket : ball (b) pistol : trigger
(c) stone : catapult (d) bristles : brush
10. contagious : uninfected
(a) imprudent : careful (b) draw : rub
(c) impress : express (d) read : relax
11. goblet : pitcher
(a) shoes : socks (b) stamps : letters
(c) sky : blue (d) zip : buttons
12. rose : fragrance
(a) water : liquid (b) scientist : experiment
(c) rainbow : colour (d) stone : rock
13. tree : trunk
(a) road : footpath (b) cub : tiger
(c) officer : subordinates (d) microscope : lens
14. alsatian : pekinese
(a) bicycle : scooter (b) Maruti : Toyota
(c) magazine : newspaper
(d) Prime Minister : Chief Minister
15. oar : boat
(a) handle : machine (b) chain : link
(c) stick : cattle (d) pen : paper
16. heat : perspiration
(a) study : syllabus (b) music : tune
(c) dirt : disease (d) exercise : fitness

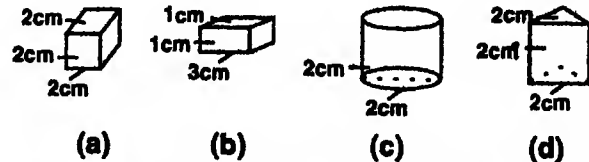
Match questions 17 to 21 with (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) on the basis of similar relationship among the items. The order of items need not be the same.

17. kennel : stable : aquarium
(a) love : absent-minded : day-dreaming
18. fever : shivering : malaria
(b) sovereign : ornaments : gold
19. driver : jockey : chauffeur
(c) judgment : court : panchayat
20. curtain : cloth : garment
(d) teacher : trainer : instructor

21. school : college : education

(e) den : nest : ant-hill

22. If all the following blocks are made out of the same piece of wood, which would be the heaviest?



In questions 23 to 27, each letter of the words is coded by a figure. Find out the right codes for letters enclosed in boxes.

23. MAS T ER

- (a) ■ (b) □ (c) ● (d) ⊙ (e) ▢ (f) △

24. S I NGER

- (a) ⊙ (b) ▢ (c) △ (d) ■ (e) ▲ (f) ⊙

25. NATUR E

- (a) ● (b) ▢ (c) ⊙ (d) □ (e) ▢ (f) ■

26. P ARSON

- (a) ▢ (b) △ (c) ■ (d) ⊙ (e) ⊙ (f) ▢

27. PRI N TS

- (a) ▢ (b) ⊙ (c) ⊙ (d) ▢ (e) □ (f) △

28. If in a certain code 'TEARS' is written as 'UGDVX' then SMILE would be:

- (a) TOKOK (b) TOLNG (c) TOKNH
(d) TOJPI (e) TOLPI

In questions 29 and 30, a lead word is given followed by five words. Four out of the five words are related to the main word in the same way. Your task is to find the odd-man out:

29. AUSTRALIA

- (a) TRAIL (b) STAR (c) RURAL
(d) LUST (e) ASTRAL

30. PALESTINE

- (a) LISTEN (b) PASTE (c) NESTLE
(d) STAPLE (e) STINT

Six persons, A, B, C, D, E and F are standing in a row, one behind the other in the following way:

A is between E and F.

D is at one of the ends and three places away from C.

B is behind C, but C is not near F.

31. C is between:

- (a) A and B (b) B and D (c) B and E
(d) B and F (e) D and E

32. D is at one end, who is at the other end?

- (a) A (b) B (c) C (d) E (e) F

A big number of people ventured to go on an expedition and decided to reach a mountain peak. As the rocks were getting more and more steep, five camps were planned other than the base-camp. The first camp was set after a climb of 8 kms. Each next camp was at half the distance of the previous camp and after reaching a camp half of the members gave up and refused to go further. Only three members reached the last camp which was $\frac{1}{2}$ km from the mountain peak. After resting the whole night, these three members reached the mountain peak next day.

33. How many members were there at the base camp?

- (a) 96 (b) 104 (c) 108
(d) 112 (e) None of these

34. How far was the peak from the base camp?

- (a) 24 kms (b) 20 kms (c) 16 kms
(d) 15 kms (e) None of these

35. On which day did the three members reach the mountain peak if starting from the base camp is the first day?

- (a) 4th day (b) 5th day (c) 6th day
(d) 7th day (e) None of these

Questions 36 to 40 are based on the information given below:

Five persons Bharat, Dheeraj, Girish, Mukesh and Pankaj are businessman, doctor, geologist, musician and professor by profession and are posted in Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Punjab.

The first letter of the names of the persons, their profession and the State where they are posted is not common.

Bharat and Dheeraj do not live in Gujarat or Maharashtra nor they are geologist or musician by profession.

Pankaj is not posted in Delhi or Gujarat.

Mukesh is neither a doctor nor professor.

Now match the following by writing the letters of professions (A, B, C, D and E) and the State ((a), (b), (c), (d) and (e)) against the questions.

36. Bharat

A. businessman (a) Bihar

37. Dheeraj

(b) Delhi

38. Girish

(c) Gujarat

39. Mukesh

(d) Maharashtra

40. Pankaj

(e) Punjab

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SYLLOGISMS

In each question below are given two statements followed by four conclusions, numbered I, II, III and IV. You have to take the two given statements to be true even if they seem to be at variance with commonly known facts. Read all the conclusions and then decide which of the given conclusions logically follow from the two given statements, disregarding commonly known facts.

Statements:

41. 1. Some pencils are spades.
2. All spades are hammers.

Conclusions:

- I. Some pencils are hammers.
II. All hammers are spades.

III. All pencils are not hammers.

IV. Some hammers are not pencils.

- (a) Only I follows.
(b) Only II follows.
(c) Only I and III follow.
(d) Only II and IV follow.
(e) Either I or IV follows.

Statements:

42. 1. All files are handles.
2. Some buckets are handles.

Conclusions:

- I. Some buckets are files.
II. Some handles are buckets as well as files.
III. Some files are not handles.
IV. No handle is bucket as well as file.

- (a) Either II or IV follows.
(b) Either I or III follows.
(c) Only I and II follow.
(d) Only III and IV follow.
(e) None follows.

Statements:

43. 1. All rooms are cabins.
2. All cabins are hotels.

Conclusions:

- I. All rooms are hotels.
II. All hotels are cabins.
III. All cabins are rooms.
IV. No hotel is cabin as well as room.

- (a) Only I follows.
(b) Only II follows.
(c) Only III follows.
(d) Only IV follows.
(e) None follows.

Statements:

44. 1. All children are youths.
2. Some youths are ministers.

Conclusions:

- I. Some children are ministers.
II. Some ministers are not youths.
III. No minister is a child.
IV. All ministers are children.

- (a) Only I and II follow.
(b) Only III and IV follow.
(c) Either III or IV follows.
(d) Either I or III follows.
(e) Either II or IV follows.

Statements:

45. 1. Some fools are jokers.
2. Some jokers are dancers.

Conclusions:

- I. Some fools are dancers.
II. The jokers, who are not dancers are fools.
III. Some dancers are not jokers.
IV. All dancers are either fools or jokers.

- (a) Only I follows. (b) Only II follows.
(c) Only III follows.
(d) Anyone of the three.
(e) None follows.

Statements:

46. 1. Coal is lighter than wood but heavier than diamond.

2. Silver is lighter than diamond but heavier than glass, which is heavier than brass.

Conclusions:

- I. Wood is the heaviest.
 - II. Glass is lighter than diamond
 - III. Brass is the lightest.
 - IV. Coal is heavier than silver.
- (a) Only I follows.
(b) Only II follows.
(c) Only II & III follow.
(d) Only I, III and IV follow.
(e) All the four follow.

Statements:

47. 1. All tubs are buckets.
2. All mugs are buckets.

Conclusions:

- I. Every bucket is either mug or tub.
 - II. Some buckets are tubs as well as mugs.
 - III. No bucket is mug as well as tub.
 - IV. Some buckets are neither mugs nor tubs.
- (a) All the four follow.
(b) Any one of the four follows.
(c) Either I or II follows.
(d) Only III and IV follow.
(e) None follows.

Statements:

48. 1. Only those buildings are green that are neither blue nor pink.
2. Only those buildings are new that are neither blue nor green.

Conclusions:

- I. Pink buildings are new.
 - II. Green buildings are blue.
 - III. Some buildings are colourless.
 - IV. Blue buildings are more beautiful than pink ones.
- (a) Only I follows
(b) Only II follows.
(c) Only III follows.
(d) Only IV follows.

In each question below is given a statement followed by three assumptions, numbered I, II and III. An assumption is something supposed or taken for granted. You have to consider the statement and the assumptions and then decide which of the assumptions is implicit in the statement. Then decide which of the answers is correct.

Statement:

49. More than 200 brick kilns in a State have been closed as a protest against the policies of the State and Central governments.

Assumptions:

- I. The State and Central governments did not take into consideration the problems of the industry while they were making their policies for this industry.
 - II. All industrial policies are made jointly by the State and Central governments.
 - III. The State is importing bricks from other States.
- (a) Only I is implicit.
(b) Only II is implicit
(c) Only III is implicit
(d) Either II or III is implicit
(e) None is implicit.

Statement:

50. A picturesque spot, the Aruku valley, nestled in the Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh, is still missing on the country's tourist map.

Assumptions:

- I. The authorities do not want to destroy this beautiful natural spot by having too many tourists and too many hotels to accommodate them.
 - II. The authorities are rather indifferent hence are not giving enough publicity for the tourist inflow to the region.
 - III. The country's tourist map has not been revised for years.
- (a) Only I is implicit.
(b) Only II is implicit.
(c) Only III is implicit.
(d) Either I or II is implicit.
(e) Either II or III is implicit.

Statement:

51. Every magazine and newspaper specials have a beauty-care column for women readers.

Assumptions:

- I. Women are getting more and more beauty-conscious day by day.
 - II. These beauty-care tips really add to the beauty of women.
 - III. Men are not beauty-conscious.
- (a) Only I is implicit.
(b) Only I and III are implicit.
(c) Only II is implicit.
(d) Either II or III is implicit.
(e) Only III is implicit.

Statement:

52. The Wimbledon finalist of 1997 is only a young girl of sixteen.

Assumptions:

- I. The previous winners have become too old to play.
 - II. The older players let her win as she was a little more than a child.
 - III. Her game was superior to the game of her rivals.
- (a) Only I is implicit.
(b) Only II is implicit.
(c) Only III is implicit.
(d) Only I and II are implicit.
(e) None is implicit.

Statement:

53. "In spite of significant decline in gold prices, the low prices are not attracting customers and demand has slumped down." A report.

Assumptions:

- I. People have no money to buy gold.
 - II. Customers are waiting for the prices to go down further.
 - III. Since gold has become cheap, it has gone out of fashion.
- (a) Only I is implicit.
(b) Only II is implicit.
(c) Only III is implicit.
(d) Either I or II is implicit.
(e) Either I or III is implicit.

Statement:

54. Scientists believe that one of the asteroids crashing into the Gulf of Mexico, brought such climatic changes that the dinosaurs were killed off.

Assumptions:

- I. The asteroid must have been of a huge size and must have come with a tremendous speed.
- II. Dinosaurs existed near the Gulf of Mexico.
- III. Such asteroids could have fallen in other parts of the world too, affecting the climate and life.

- (a) Only I and II are implicit.
- (b) Only II and III are implicit.
- (c) Any one of the three is implicit.
- (d) Only I and III are implicit.
- (e) All are implicit.

Statement:

55. Some of the doctors have warned that antibiotic-resistant bacteria were rendering ineffective some common treatments for simple infections.

Assumptions:

- I. Doctors don't prescribe heavy doses of antibiotics for simple infections.
- II. All the doctors do not believe that antibiotics may cause harm.
- III. For serious infections doctors do not have any option except prescribing antibiotics.

- (a) Only I is implicit.
- (b) Only II is implicit.
- (c) Only III is implicit.
- (d) None is implicit.
- (e) Any one of the three is implicit.

Statement:

56. Two more battalions of the Border Security Force are being deployed along the Indo-Bangla international border to check trans-border movements.

Assumptions:

- I. The forces appointed there at present have not been able to check infiltration completely.
- II. Such arrangement would check the movement of militants also.
- III. Bangladesh residents feel more secure in India hence they never miss any opportunity to sneak into our country.

- (a) Only I is implicit.
- (b) Only II is implicit.
- (c) Only III is implicit.
- (d) Only I and II are implicit.
- (e) Only II and III are implicit.

In each question below is given an assertion A, followed by two reasons RI and RII. Mark your answers:

- (a) if only RI is the reason for A.
- (b) if only RII is the reason for A.
- (c) if both RI and RII are the reasons for A.
- (d) if either RI or RII is the reason for A.
- (e) if neither RI nor RII is the reason for A.

57. A. Seasons on the earth keep on changing regularly every year.

RI. The earth rotates round the sun.

RII. The earth takes one year in going round the sun.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

58. A. Most of the big politicians in key positions are involved in some or the other scam.

RI. The salary and allowance paid to them is not enough to maintain standard of living.

RII. They acquired the chair for some vested interests hence their greed knows no bounds.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

59. A. There is a proposal to use games like ludo and snake-ladder to integrate the message of family welfare and population control.

RI. The greatest need of the day is to bring awareness on these issues among the young.

RII. Games are the best medium to teach the children and convey information in a play-way.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

60. A. Companies spend thousands of rupees for a 30-second advertisement on TV.

RI. The money spent on advertisement is worth its price as such ads increase the sale tremendously.

RII. It is prestigious for companies in the business world to be advertised through the small screen.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

61. A. Most of the bomb-blasts planned and executed by the militants, kill innocent persons only.

RI. They like to create an atmosphere of terror and frighten the common man by displaying their ruthlessness in such cruel ways.

RII. It is not easy for them to attack the armed security forces.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

62. A. In our countries, cleanliness and hygienic conditions are not upto the mark.

RI. The Municipality and Corporations do not perform their duties properly.

RII. People in general lack civic sense and do not co-operate in maintaining cleanliness.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

63. A. In the list of unsuccessful candidates, most of students fail in Mathematics.

RI. Mathematics is a tough subject hence few students can acquire a thorough grip over it.

RII. Mathematics teachers in the lower classes do not take enough pains to give the students a solid foundation in the subject.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

64. A. Mr Mehra's son has been offered a job in the company where his father used to work as an accountant.

RI. Mr Mehra was a very capable and honest person hence the company thinks the son is equally reliable and efficient.

RII. Mr Mehra's son has a brilliant academic career and is the most suitable candidate for the job vacancy.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Below is given a passage followed by several inferences which can be drawn from the facts stated in the passage. You have to examine each inference separately in the context of the passage and decide upon its degree of truth or falsity. Mark your answers:

- (a) if the inference is definitely true.
- (b) if probably true.
- (c) if doubtful as the adequate data is not available.
- (d) if probably false.
- (e) if definitely false.

While NASA spends billions of dollars on the Pathfinder programme to retrieve rocks and soils from Mars, India has done precious little to study its own collection of rocks from

Mars. The rocks from Mars which landed in Bihar as a meteorite fall in 1865, are chunks of the Red Planet. A part of the Bihar collection, called the Shergotti meteorites after the village it landed on, is believed to be in the archival collection of geological survey of India. But another part, that fell in Egypt was taken away to the Smithsonian Institute where chemical analysis confirmed that an abundance of the element krypton in the rock was a clear marker for Martian rock and orange inclusions deep within indicated the presence of water.

65. Scientists are not allowed to take pieces of stones from the archival collection of geological survey of India.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

66. The element krypton in the rock is only to be found in Martian rocks.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

67. Many persons were killed when the meteorite fell on a village in Bihar.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

68. Traces of water are totally missing in Mars.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

69. Our country cannot afford to spend much amount on space-research.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

70. Orange colour inside a rock indicates presence of water.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (c) All the others are generally associated with drinks.
2. (b) All the others are birds of prey.
3. (e) Monastery houses monks; all the others are places of worship.
4. (a) This is the only string musical instrument among percussion instruments.
5. (d) It is a boat, all the others are modes of travelling on ice.
6. (c) All the other are water-birds.
7. (b) All the others sale items.
8. (a) All the others improve upon the existing thing while correction is making a wrong-right.
9. (c) One is instrumental in throwing the other at the target.
10. (a) The items are opposites.
11. (d) Both are different items for performing the same function.
12. (c) One is the natural quality of the other.
13. (d) One is a part of the other.
14. (b) The two are different brands of the same type of article.
15. (a) One is needed for the working of the other.
16. (c) They have cause and effect relationship.
17. (e) They are places where particular species live.
18. (a) The relationship is that of a feeling and two of its symptoms.
19. (d) The professions are related to the same type of skill.
20. (b) Two items are made from a common material.
21. (c) There are two places serving a common cause.
22. (a) Find out the volume of each solid.

For solving the next set of questions, sort out common letters in questions and match them with common code figures, e.g. 'T' occurs in questions 23, 25 and 27, so does the figure given against (b) in question no. 23, hence it is the code for T.

23. (b) 24. (d) 25. (a) 26. (d) 27. (c)

28. (e) Letters are coded by letters following them in the alphabetical order, the gap increasing by one.

29. (c) It has an extra 'R' while in all the other words, all the letters are from the lead word.

30. (e) Just like question 29, it has an extra T.

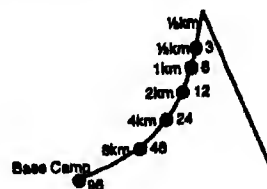
31. (c)

32. (b) The arrangement is DFAECB, D being in front.

33. (a)

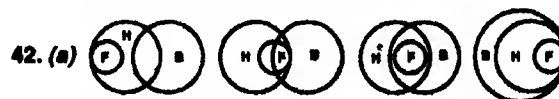
34. (c)

35. (c)



36. Be 37. Ea 38. Db 39. Ac 40. Cd

For solving the next type of questions, let each item be represented by a circle, irrespective of its size. On the basis of relationship among the items, draw diagrams of all the probable situations and then reach the fool-proof conclusion. Here are a few examples.



- | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 49. (a) | 50. (d) | 51. (a) | 52. (c) | 53. (b) |
| 54. (e) | 55. (a) | 56. (d) | 57. (e) | 58. (b) |
| 59. (c) | 60. (a) | 61. (c) | 62. (c) | 63. (c) |
| 64. (d) | 65. (d) | 66. (b) | 67. (c) | 68. (e) |
| 69. (c) | 70. (a) | | | |

CURRENT AFFAIRS

NATIONAL

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

K.R. Narayanan sworn in

KOCHERIL Raman Narayanan was formally declared elected President on July 18, 1997, polling 95 per cent of the valid votes cast. He is the first *Dalit* President in 50 years of independent India. He was sworn in on July 25 for a five-year term. This is the sixth occasion when the country's Vice President has been elevated to the post of President.

Mr Narayanan got a support of 4231 in an electoral college with an effective strength of 4833 in Parliament and 27 assemblies under a system of proportional representation. His opponent, Mr T.N. Seshan polled only 240 votes which was only 4.8 per cent of the total votes.

For the presidential election, he was the consensus candidate of the United Front and the Congress. The main opposition, BJP, also went along with the decision.

Mr Narayanan, a diplomat turned politician, was a minister at the Centre in the Rajiv Gandhi government in the late eighties. He had also been Vice Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University.

With the departure of Shankar Dayal Sharma from the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Gandhi cap, synonymous with the freedom movement, also made an exit, ironically in the golden jubilee year of Independence.

Mr Narayanan does not wear any headgear, leave alone the Gandhi cap. In fact, the Gandhi cap had returned to the Rashtrapati Bhavan after a gap of ten years when Mr Sharma had taken over.

The Gandhi cap, once the symbol of *Swadeshi* and humility, was worn by Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India. Other Presidents to wear the cap were: Dr Zakir Hussain, Mr Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and Mr Neelam Sanjiva Reddy.

Mr S. Radhakrishnan wore the lily-white turban, a distinguishing mark in the personality of the scholar. Mr V.V. Giri wore

the Gandhi cap on occasions only.

(Also see *Special Feature* on page 127)

SCANDALS

Fodder Scam: Laloo quits Chief Ministership, surrenders

ON July 25, 1997, Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav resigned as Chief Minister after arrest warrants were issued against him. His wife, Rabri Devi, was sworn in as the new Chief Minister.

Mr Yadav had been asserting that he would not quit until convicted by court

Recent Economic News

Pay Commission Report

On July 18, 1997, the Central government decided to implement the recommendations of the fifth Pay Commission, revising the existing pay scales and allowances of its employees. The recommendations would be effective from January 1, 1996 and payment made within two months. The implementation of the recommendations would cost Rs 13000 crore per annum to the exchequer.

Major highlights of the report are:

- Pay Commission implementation from 1-1-96.
- House building advance raised to minimum Rs 7.5 lakh and maximum 18 lakh at 12 per cent interest.
- HRA 30 per cent of the actual basic pay in A cities, 5 per cent to 15 per cent in other cities.
- Gratuity ceiling increased to Rs 3.5 lakh from Rs 2.5 lakh.
- 100 per cent neutralisation of DA for all employees.
- Pension/family pension raised from Rs 375 to Rs 1220 per month.
- 300 days of earned leave can be accumulated.
- Casual leave reduced to eight.
- Three hometown LTCs instead of one all India and one hometown LTC in four years.
- Indian Forest Service officers brought at par with the Indian Police Service.
- Recommendation to abolish overtime rejected.
- Retirement age to remain at 58 years.
- Five-day week to continue.

The government has rejected the Pay Commission's recommendation to increase the retirement age from 58 to 60, abolish all vacant government posts and shift over to a six-day week instead of the present five-day week.

The Armed Forces especially the Army have, however, expressed dismay and disappointment over the Pay Commission report. No allowances have been announced for soldiers involved in high altitudes and hazardous areas such as Dras, Kargil, Sikkim or Arunachal Pradesh. Only soldiers posted in Siachen (3000 at any given time) will be given an allowance of Rs 7000.

and that he would continue to rule from jail if arrested. His resignation came a day after the Lok Sabha took up discussion on a BJP-sponsored adjournment motion on Bihar developments.

The Patna High Court had rejected his plea for anticipatory bail. The order was challenged in the Supreme Court. The apex court ordered a stay on his arrest till July 29. However, the Supreme Court turned down his appeal against the rejection of the anticipatory bail petition. Laloo Yadav finally surrendered on July 30, and was remanded to judicial custody.

Presenting its case before the courts,

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CBI had claimed that as per statements recorded under Section 161 of the IPC it was clear that Mr Laloo Prasad was paid Rs 20 lakh by fodder scam accused O.P. Diwakar. Mr Yadav was also charged with "negligence of duty" as he had allegedly taken no action to curb the fraudulent withdrawals.

While rejecting the appeal of Mr Yadav High Court Justice Dhaliwal said in his order: "I am of the view that *prima facie* the excessive withdrawals could not have been possible without a conspiracy.

Earlier, on July 15, 1997, two factions of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and Independents had helped the beleaguered Laloo Prasad government to win the vote of confidence by 168 votes. All the Congress members had abstained and the rest of the opposition did not participate.

Both the moves of obtaining vote of confidence and installing Rabri Devi as Chief Minister have been termed as mockery of democracy. While constitutionally no wrong has been committed, morally and ethically speaking nothing was done that was right.

Congress President Sitaram Kesari justified his party's support to the Rabri Devi government saying that "supporting corruption was less dangerous than supporting communalism". He added that defeat of Rabri government in Bihar would have meant victory for the BJP which "symbolised communalism".

Chief Minister Rabri Devi compensated the members who supported her by inducting 75 ministers in her Cabinet. Such a jumbo cabinet will certainly be a strain on the exchequer of the poor State of Bihar.

Hawala case: Bid to influence Supreme Court?

IN a startling revelation, Chief Justice J.S. Verma said on July 14, 1997 that he and his brother judges on the Jain hawala bench had come under "persistent pres-

sure" to withdraw.

"This type of harassment will not work. Neither of us are going to recuse ourselves from this bench....These antics are not going to pay anyone", a disturbed justice Verma told a packed courtroom before the start of the proceedings.

Justice Verma, however, did not reveal the identity of the person who attempted to influence the judges.

The United Front government clarified subsequently that there was no interference from its side in the hawala case proceedings.

MEDIA

Prasar Bharti Act notified

ON July 22, 1997, the government notified the Prasar Bharti Act, 1990, which provides for the establishment of a Broadcasting Corporation of India. The Act

will become effective on September 15, 1997.

As per the Act, in place of the government control there will be the Prasar Bharti, a corporation which will run the two broadcasters—Doordarshan (DD) and All India Radio (AIR). The government will pass the control of all property and assets of Doordarshan and AIR to the Corporation. The transfer will take place on the terms and conditions made out by the government. Although the corporation will be free of State control, it would receive annual grants from the government.

The Prasar Bharti would itself be accountable to three levels of control—the Broadcasting Council, of which the Prasar Bharti chairman would be a member and, which would attend "complaints from the public about the functioning of AIR and DD"; a Parliamentary Committee which would supervise Prasar Bharti's function-

Recent Economic News

IMF Report: Strong Macro Outlook for India

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in an internal report on India's current status, has said that India has a strong macro economic outlook. Particular emphasis has been placed on its stable external sector growth.

The IMF has said that the only way to mitigate the larger effects of accelerated capital inflows is by reducing the government's fiscal deficit and simultaneously liberalising the trade regime by removing the quantitative restriction on imports.

The report is a result of the recent consultation with the government under Article IV of the fund's mandate. Under this, the IMF basically conducts a surveillance of the exchange rate policy of the member country. Emphasis is given to the macro economic outlook on the capital account front.

The IMF has welcomed the Tarapore Committee Report outlining the road map to full convertibility on the capital account, though it has pointed out that all the Macro economic parameters laid down by the panel within the stipulated period.

The IMF has made the following projections about the Indian economy.

IMF Projections (1997-98)

■ GDP growth rate	6.5%
■ Inflation rate	7%
■ External Debt	25% of GDP
■ Debt servicing current receipts	26.7%
■ Gross Domestic Savings	28.3% of GDP
■ Gross Domestic Investment	28.1% of GDP

CURRENT AFFAIRS

NATIONAL

Core Sector Policy to boost infrastructure

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on July 22, 1997, announced a series of measures to give a boost to the infrastructure sector. These include a decision to make a policy on corporatisation of major ports, open-handed offer from the finance ministry to make funds available for new power projects and allowing public sector units in the power sector to expand equity base to enable them to borrow in India and abroad.

The following announcements were made by the Prime Minister:

- (a) Policy on corporatisation of major ports soon.
- (b) 30 port projects to be cleared soon.
- (c) Finance Ministry to make funds available for new power projects.
- (d) All M&U power projects to be cleared by Dec '97.
- (e) Power PSUs to be allowed to expand equity base.
- (f) Oil companies to look at the feasibility of using private ports for importing of liquid fuels.

ing; and ultimately the Central Government which would be given sweeping powers to seek any information that the government finds necessary.

Although the Act is in line with the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front, many recommendations suggested by the Nitish Sengupta Committee Report, August 1996 have not been incorporated. The Report had suggested that (a) a full-time chairman and a larger number of full-time members to ensure professionalism (b) six full-time and four part-time members in addition to a representative from the Information and Broadcasting Ministry (c) retirement age of 58 (d) an independent radio and TV authority to licence satellite networks, domestic and foreign, instead of the controversial Broadcasting Council envisaged in Section 14 of the Act (e) bifurcation of AIR and DD into two separate wings.

The Information and Broadcasting Minister Mr Jaipal Reddy has said that the government would consider the recommendations of the Sengupta Committee.

On the whole, the government's decision is being viewed as a landmark. It is felt that the biggest advantage will be the freeing of DD and AIR from government push and pulls.

DTH Services banned

THE Union government has issued a gazette notification banning setting up and maintenance of Direct-To-Home (DTH) satellite television service. The step has been taken to "ensure regulation of the nature and content of programmes and to prevent undesirable and objectionable broadcasts".

The notification from the Communication Ministry said that no person shall establish, maintain, work, possess or deal in special antenna, including dish antenna, satellite decoders and associated front-end converter used or capable of being used, for reception of transient images of fixed and moving objects direct from satellites operating in broadcasting satellite service or fixed satellite service in frequency bands of 4800 Mhz and above. The notification simultaneously says that no licence shall be required by any person to establish, maintain, work, possess or deal in radio, television, and video cassette recorders and special antenna for frequencies bands below 4800 Mhz. (Direct-to-home transmission is generally done on a frequency of 4800 Mhz, also known as the Ku band. All TV transmission at present is in the 'C' band).

The government had on December

19, 1996, issued a notification requiring that any DTH transmission will need a special licence. Following this, the Rupert Murdoch-owned Star TV network established the Indian SKY Broadcasting (ISKy B) on the lines of his British Sky Broadcasting (By SKY B) and demonstrated its capacity to start a DTH service as soon as it could obtain a licence, causing the government to think in terms of a ban.

The notification has been issued in exercise of powers conferred by Sections four and seven of the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 and Sections four and ten of the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act 1933, and in supersession of the radio, television, and video cassette recorder sets (exemption from licensing) rules 1985.

The new rules will henceforth be known as the "Radio, Television and Video Cassette Recorder Sets (exemption from licensing requirements) Rules 1997".

The explanatory memorandum says that DTH is a new technology, enabling a satellite broadcaster to use digital compression and Ku band transponders, and transmitting signals in frequencies above 4800 Mhz, which is "on the threshold of entry into India".

The memorandum notes that at present, the transmission at frequencies below 4800 Mhz (C band) is done through cable operators, and so "regulation of any undesirable and objectionable programme is feasible". But under the new technology, a broadcaster can beam his programmes directly into Indian homes with the help of a very small-sized dish antenna, "which even defies detection if and when required and without the involvement of any intermediary like cable operators, thus establishing a direct link with households without any possibility of regulation by any intermediary or any regulatory authority. In a nutshell, the new technology would enable any broadcaster in or outside India to telecast or beam any programme

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of his choice directly to houses and bedrooms of the general public"

"It is apprehended that any broadcaster who decides to start a DTH service for reception in India, could include a foreign entity uplinking his signals from outside the Indian soil, without any control over either the nature, or content of the programme", the memorandum stated. It added that it had become necessary to ensure that no person be allowed to start a DTH service in India.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

PM offers unconditional talks to militants; backtracks later

ON his visit to Jammu & Kashmir on July 26, 1997, Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral offered to hold unconditional talks with J & K separatists to end the seven-year old cycle of violence in Kashmir. The Prime Minister made this offer while laying the foundation stone of the ambitious Rs 2500 crore rail project.

"Government is ready for unconditional talks with the misguided elements in the Valley so that peace is returned to the paradise of earth", Mr Gujral said.

He did not use the word "militant" and instead called them "our children, our dear one". He referred to the ceasefire agreement in Nagaland and said he had come to repeat the same process in Kashmir.

However, within 24 hours of the "unconditional offer" Prime Minister Gujral said that the militants will have to first lay down arms. The BJP National Executive had criticised Mr Gujral for the unconditional offer and termed it as "an attitude of total surrender".

Prime Minister also clarified that no mercy will be shown to foreign mercenaries.

NAGALAND

Three-Month Ceasefire announced; Peace talks to be held in Atlanta

PRIME Minister Inder Kumar Gujral announced on July 25, 1997, that an agreement has been reached with the Issac-Muivah group of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, NSCN (I-M), for a ceasefire in Nagaland. The ceasefire came into force for three months from August 1, 1997.

The NSCN (I-M) declared that it had agreed to a three-month ceasefire to facilitate peace talks with the Centre.

Attempts to hold talks with Naga insurgents began in late 1995 when former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was in power. Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda held informal discussions with top NSCN (I-M) leaders in Switzerland during the world economic forum meet earlier this year and expressed the Centre's willingness to hold a dialogue with underground leaders for restoring peace in the North-East.

The peace talks will be held in Atlanta, USA. Nagaland Chief Minister S C Jamir said he was confident that the talks will usher in an era of peace in the North-East.

The talks were organised at the initiative of representatives of the Baptist Church, which has a strong presence among the people of Nagaland.

INDIA-JAPAN

Visit of Foreign Minister

FOREIGN Minister of Japan, Mr Yukihiko Ikeda arrived on July 23, 1997 on a three-day visit to New Delhi. This was first visit of a Japanese Foreign Minister in last ten years.

Following his talks with Prime Minister I.K. Gujral it was agreed upon that henceforth there would be more frequent political dialogues at the level of senior officers, ministers and head of government.

Apart from the virtue of being the largest foreign donor to India, Japan has identified India as the second most important destination for its overseas investment.

The significance of the visit, however, was more in the context of recent international developments in international politics. Japan has been developing its own security dimension in respect of China, and India is destined to figure in it. Mr Ikeda sounded the Indian government on this aspect. He also applauded the ongoing Indo-Pak dialogue to resolve all bilateral issues and ruled out any third party mediation in Jammu and Kashmir.

On the expansion of the United Nations Security Council and Japan's view on India's candidature, Mr Ikeda said: "There is already consensus for Japan and Germany becoming new permanent members. We are of the view that those countries which can play a global role should qualify for becoming permanent members. However, we have not yet decided how exactly the expansion should take place. But we view India as a major candidate because it will play a major role in the world."

The Foreign Minister agreed that "with Germany becoming a permanent member, Europe (which already has three countries as permanent members—Britain, France and Russia) will be over-represented in the Security Council *vis-a-vis* Asia, the largest and most populous continent (which has only China).

Mr Ikeda said, "The UN must take into account the present realities of the world. I feel when the reforms take place, there should be some redressal about Europe's over-representation. The voice of Asia should be reflected in the reformed U.N. On this aspect India and Japan see eye-to-eye. That is why I and Mr Gujral have agreed that Japan and India must be in constant touch with regard to UN reforms."

CURRENT AFFAIRS

NATIONAL

LAW AND ORDER

Violence in Mumbai and other areas

TEN persons were killed and 25 were injured in North-East Mumbai on July 11, 1997, when the police had to open fire to control a mob protesting against the desecration of a statue of Dr B.R. Ambedkar.

The Republican Party of India (RPI) gave a call for a 'Mumbai Bandh' and 'Maharashtra Bandh' in protest against the incident. All opposition parties in the State, led by the Congress, decided to support the bandh. The bandh was observed at 35 different places in the State, including Nagpur, Pune, Amravati and Akola, paralysing the whole State.

Later, on July 14, official residences of opposition Congress leaders Chhagan Bhujbal and Madhukar Pichad in South Mumbai were ransacked. Mr Pichad said that his house and that of his counterpart in council Chhagan Bhujbal were attacked by Shiv Sainiks who were protesting against the opposition demand for dismissal of the Sena-BJP government.

Pressure from the Centre and effective measures by the State government, however, helped to control the situation. The demand for dismissal of the State government was refused.

34 killed in train blast

At least 34 persons, including six women and four children, were killed in a powerful blast on the Bathinda-Ambala passenger train near the Lehra Khana station, 18 km from Bathinda. About 60 people were injured. No group claimed responsibility for the blast. Apparently, high powered RDX weighing not less than two kg was planted on the luggage shelf of the train.

This was perhaps the worst train blast since militancy erupted a decade and a half ago. The highest toll in a terrorist

strike involving train passengers had occurred in June 1991, when about 80 persons were shot dead at Qila Raipur and Baddowal near Ludhiana.

Later, on July 22, the Punjab police Director General said that they had identified the militant outfit behind the blast. The "Khalistan Zindabad Force" (KZF) was responsible for the blast. The deputy chief, Attarjit Singh, of the KZF was arrested.

JANATA DAL ELECTIONS

Sharad Yadav elected chief

ON July 6, 1997, Mr Sharad Yadav was elected as the president of Janata Dal, defeating Laloo Prasad Yadav by an overwhelming margin. Mr Laloo Yadav and his supporters had boycotted the elections and, infact, formed a parallel outfit, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), a day earlier.

The election of Mr Sharad Yadav brought to an end a month-long tussle for the party's top post, punctuated by protracted legal battles between Mr Laloo Yadav and the Returning officer.

The elections marked the completion of the internal democratic exercise, undertaken on the directives of the Election Commission and at the intervention of the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court's intervention came when Mr Laloo Yadav sought to hijack the poll process to Patna by announcing a national convention to elect the new President, in violation of detailed poll schedule already under implementation.

The Supreme Court's intervention saw the appointment of two observers, Prof Madhu Dandavate and Mr S. Jaipal Reddy, who pulled out of the assignment.

The court later appointed Mr Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, who was removed after it found him indulging in obstructive tactics on behalf of Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav during meetings with Prof Dandavate to go into complaints about irregularities in the voters' list alleged by

the Laloo camp.

With this the parting of ways between the camps virtually came about leading to Mr Laloo Prasad Yadav holding a convention in which he floated his party accusing some leaders of trying to capture the party through bogus voters and attempting to drive him out of the party.

After a couple of meetings between Mr Singh and Prof Dandavate, when they went into the problem of bogus voters, the apex court removed the former and empowered Prof Dandavate to complete the election by July 3.

The Supreme Court-appointed observer, Prof Madhu Dandavate, declared the result after counting of votes was completed.

INSURANCE SECTOR

Bill withdrawn

ON August 6, 1997, the Opposition forced the government to withdraw the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill.

The Bill, which was expected to have a smooth passage as the Congress and the BJP did not have any objectives, fell through when the BJP insisted that the Bill should categorically state that the sector would be opened up only for domestic capital. What complicated the matters was the absence of the Congress members from the House.

The government cannot now introduce the same bill in the current session. According to rules, a motion discussed, withdrawn and voted upon cannot be taken up in the same form in the same session.

The objective of the Bill was to create a 'multi-member regulatory authority'. The amendment asked for by the BJP was, infact, outside the scope of the Bill. There was a suggestion to defer the Bill and wait for the Congress members to be present in the House so that the Bill could be discussed once again and passed. The government, however, panicked and decided to withdraw the Bill.

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INTERNATIONAL

CAMBODIA

On the brink of anarchy

IN early July, Cambodia witnessed a bloody coup led by second Prime Minister Hun Sen against his main rival and coalition partner first Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh. As fighting raged between the forces loyal to the rival Prime Ministers, thousands of people fled the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh. Hun Sen, after attaining complete charge said that he would bring criminal charges against Ranariddh.

Ranariddh fled Cambodia on July 4 before the coup took place and took refuge in Paris. He has been calling for foreign support so that he can overthrow Hun Sen.

The relationship between Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen had been uneasy and bitter for a long time. Ranariddh and his party Funcinpec had won the elections held under United Nations auspices in 1993. Mr Hun Sen had bullied his way into the government by vowing to continue the civil war if he was not made part of the new government. The UN brokered a national coalition with two Prime Ministers in the hope that it would help revive Cambodia's badly battered national unity. However, the United Nations did not organise the disarming of the various Cambodian factions, a key clause in the 1991 Paris peace accords.

One incident which apparently sparked off the latest crisis was the alleged "capture" of Pol Pot, the leader of the Khmer Rouge when it was in power. There was a lot of speculation about his fate until reports pointed out that he was alive and that the Khmer Rouge Guerrillas had sentenced him to life imprisonment.

Hun Sen interpreted the Pol Pot incident as leading to renewed contacts and perhaps, even agreements between Ranariddh and dissident factions of the Khmer Rouge, the ones which were supposed to have captured their former leader.

These suspicions led to fears of a return to an earlier situation when Vietnamese military forces had backed a government led by Hun Sen which battled with a coalition of the Khmer Rouge and Ranariddh's royalist forces.

The crisis in Cambodia has affected daily life badly. Prices of essential commodities have shot up. Thousands of people have fled Phnom Penh. The United States has halted its \$ 25 million aid programme to the country. Cambodia's Asian neighbours also showed displeasure with the happenings in the country and changed their minds about admitting Cambodia into their regional bloc, ASEAN.

ASEAN

Call for restructuring

THE ASEAN Seven became the ASEAN

Nine with the admission of Laos and Burma on July 23, 1997, during the 30th summit meeting. The Foreign Ministers of the two countries signed admission declarations in the presence of the seven other ASEAN ministers. However, the ministers decided to suspend Cambodia's membership indefinitely following the crisis in the country.

ASEAN leaders, in fact, had given an indication that they would want the old government back in Cambodia. Hoping to broker an end to the civil war in Cambodia, a delegation met King Norodom Sihanouk in Beijing.

The ASEAN members' efforts to negotiate peace in Cambodia, however, failed. In fact, Hun Sen warned other nations not to meddle in Cambodian affairs. He was also confident that ASEAN would reverse its decision once his rule solidifies. ASEAN's views would, in all prob-

ADB annual report: Slower growth in South Asia

In its annual report evaluating the growth rate of its member countries in 1996, ADB (Asian Development Bank) has said that although the economies of Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan made good strides last year, but South Asia's overall growth performance did not show any change as compared with that in 1995.

The ADB report says that the growth rate of its member countries in 1996—including India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives—experienced slower growth performances during the period.

Bangladesh's GDP growth rate in 1996 accelerated to 4.7 per cent from 4.4 per cent in 1995. Nepal's GDP grew by six per cent in 1996, higher than the 3.4 per cent growth recorded in 1995 and Pakistan improved significantly in 1996 with GDP expanding 5.4 per cent compared with 4.4 per cent in 1995. India's growth rate was 6.6 per cent against 7.1 per cent in 1995.

The report has also estimated the following inflation rates in the different countries:

	Inflation Rates (%)	
	1996	1995
Nepal	8.1	7.6
Bangladesh	4	—
Pakistan	10.5	13
Bhutan	9	—
India	8.7	4.7*
Maldives	3.5	5.4
Sri Lanka	15.9	—

*First Quarter of 1996.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL

ability, be affected by the report of the delegation comprising the foreign ministers of Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand.

The present members of ASEAN are Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar. Myanmar has been given membership despite pressures from human rights groups and western governments over the military Junta's treatment of dissidents. India has the status of a dialogue partner.

Led by Finance Minister P Chidambaram, the Indian delegation gave the much needed fillip to India's 'Look East' policy. The delegation held bilateral talks with all ASEAN countries individually to speed up trade and investment flows.

Formally participating in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)—which deals with security-related issues in the ASEAN region—India took the opportunity to focus more intensively on "economic diplomacy" to create greater space for Indian business to work in partnership with ASEAN countries.

The 'Look East' policy is also framed in the context of ASEAN free trade (AFTA), a radical move mooted in 1993 by ASEAN nations. Although India is not keen on becoming a member of ASEAN, it endeavours to use its goodwill with ASEAN to get membership of APEC.

NATO

Historic Summit

THE United States and its 15 NATO allies made history on July 9, 1997, by expanding their reach to the Russian border, converting old foes in the east to new friends.

Hungary, the Czech republic and Poland have been inducted as the new members. Besides a Euro Atlantic Partnership Council has been established, which includes the 16 NATO members, the three new invitees and 25 countries ranging

from neutral Switzerland and Sweden to former Tajikistan and other former Soviet republics.

The 44-member council did not try to reach specific conclusions during its inaugural summit. The leaders focused on how the partnership might be used to prevent crisis and improve regional co-operation.

France pressed hard for the inclusion of Romania and Slovenia in NATO but lost its bid to immediately include them.

NATO leaders vowed in a communique that their doors would remain open to other former communist States and they would review the expansion process in 1999.

Meanwhile, NATO leaders and Ukraine have signed a cooperation charter. The accord stipulates that NATO and Ukraine will meet at least twice a year. Areas of consultation will include political and security related subjects, conflict prevention, nuclear, biological and chemical non-proliferation disarmament and arms control issues and terrorism.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

China Admits possessing N-missiles

CHINA had admitted that it has a powerful nuclear missile arsenal. This was declared by the commander of the Second Artillery Force (SAF) of People's Liberation Army (PLA).

The SAF had conducted exercises in the East Sea and South China Sea in 1995 and 1996 to test its combat readiness. Founded with the approval of the late chairman Mao Zedong, the SAF is now equipped with various types of missiles. A number of live firings and offensive tactical manoeuvres have been carried out by the SAF. Eighty-three per cent of the SAF troop's firing battalions have achieved the required fighting capacity grade bat-

talions increasing 18-fold in the past five years.

The existence of SAF was made public in 1984, when China held major celebrations to commemorate the 35th anniversary of its founding.

SAF now possess the skills to handle multi-type missiles and has a technological reaction capacity in a variety of circumstances.

Meanwhile, a US report has said that China is upgrading its medium range missile forces that are designed to hit targets in India and other neighbouring countries. Apparently, missile launch complexes in Jianshui, near the China-Vietnam border and at Datong in Central China, are equipped with CSS-2 and CSS-5 launchers that can hit targets which cover "most of India". Other targets include Russia, Japan and Taiwan. These facts were declared in a classified study prepared by the National Air Intelligence Centre (NAIC).

HONG KONG

Govt Switches to Proportional Representation

THE government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of China has changed the electoral system for the promised elections in 1998 to the Legislative Council (Legco).

The government, on July 8, also introduced retrospective legislation allowing for the deportation of children illegally smuggled into Hong Kong from China to be with their parents.

The proposed new electoral system will nullify the modest democratic reforms controversially put in place by the last British Governor of Hong Kong Chris Patten, and denounced by China.

The degree of democracy in Hong Kong, both under the British and China, has been extremely limited. The Legislative Council merely passes laws put for-

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ward by the unelected executive council. The Legco cannot make or break the government. In fact, the new chief executive of the HKSAR, Tung Chee Hwa is not even a member of Legco.

So far, one-third of the 60 seats in Legco have been directly elected in geographic constituencies. These 20 seats are now proposed to be elected on the basis of Proportional Representation (PR). Instead of 20 single-member seats there will be five large constituencies which will select between three and five members each. As earlier, half of the 60 Legco seats will be elected in functional constituencies, representing various trades, industries and professions.

The new electoral system has illustrated Hong Kong's unique combination of political "retrogression" along with its "retrocession".

IRELAND

Ceasefire announced by IRA

THE Irish Republican Army began a new ceasefire on July 20, 1997, giving the people of Northern Ireland yet another chance with peace. The previous IRA truce of September 1, 1994 had ended 17 months ago with a one-ton truck bomb blast in London.

This time also, certain reports have said that the IRA ceasefire could end after four months if there isn't sufficient progress in negotiations on Northern Ireland's future.

At the time of the collapse of the last ceasefire, IRA had blamed the British government for blocking Sinn Fein from negotiations. Since taking power in May, Mr Tony Blair's government reopened communications with Sinn Fein's McGuinness. British officials, apparently, assured him that if the IRA called an "unequivocal" ceasefire, Sinn Fein could enter negotiations in mid-September and those talks would end by May 1998 fulfilling Sinn Fein's demands for firm dates.

TAIWAN

Affirmation of separate identity

ON July 18, 1997, Taiwan approved a major government overhaul that will boost the island's independent status. The constitutional changes approved would expand presidential power and greatly weaken the provincial government, retained since 1949 to show Taiwan is a province of China.

These changes were taken at the risk of annoying China. The latter has claimed Taiwan as a breakaway province, warning against the scrapping of provincial government as a further step towards abandoning the doctrine of reunification. The constitutional changes were pushed by President Lee Teng-Hui after he won a landslide victory in March 1996, as Taiwan's first popularly elected President.

The constitution was enacted in 1946, three years before the Nationalists fled the Communist takeover. With the amendment, the legislature has been denied the right to veto the President's choice of Premier, but gains the right to pass a vote of no-confidence against the Premier.

Beijing has, however, warned that the move wouldn't lessen China's claim to Taiwan.

PAKISTAN

Zardari indicted for murder

A Pakistani court, on July 5, 1997, formally indicted Asif Ali Zardari, husband of former Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto, and 18 others for their involvement in the murder of Murtaza Bhutto in September, 1996.

Murtaza Bhutto, estranged brother of Benazir Bhutto, was killed in an alleged encounter with the police in Karachi last year, during the Premiership of Ms Bhutto. This had led to a series of incidents, ultimately leading to President Farooq Ahmed Leghari dismissing the Bhutto government in early November 1996.

MIDDLE EAST

Palestine Council votes for dissolution of Arafat's Cabinet

THE Palestinian Legislative Council, on July 31, 1997, called on Arafat to dissolve his 18-member self-rule Cabinet. This was in response to a report of widespread government corruption. The 88-member Council has urged Arafat to replace the Cabinet of political appointees with technocrats and experts. Although the Council has no legal power, the decision has put Arafat under serious pressure.

The Council has taken this stand on a report by its investigations committee, including recommendations that three ministers face prosecution. These are Planning Minister Nabil Shaath (who has played a prominent role in peace negotiations with Israel), Civil Affairs Minister Jamul Tarifi and Transport Minister Ali Qawasmeh.

Netanyahu may use military means

PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that he will consider military action against Palestinian militants if Arafat failed to crack down on them himself. This came as a reaction to the double suicide bombings at Jerusalem on July 30. This was the worst attack that Netanyahu had faced since he came to power in June 1996. He had been elected largely on a promise to get tough on Palestinian militants.

Meanwhile, Arafat declared a state of emergency on July 30, calling on the vocational police on the Palestinian force to duty. He plans an arrest sweep aimed at Islamic militants.

Earlier, Israel and Palestine had announced they would resume negotiations on remaining aspects of their peace accords. However, there has been no indication that the sides have resolved the major

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issues hindering the talks—the Palestinians' demand for a halt to Israeli building in disputed territories and Israel's demand for a renewal of intelligence sharing to prevent terrorism.

Other issues that are of importance are the opening of a Palestinian airport and sea port in the Gaza Strip, establishment of a "safe passage" for travel between the West Bank and Gaza and the release of Palestinian prisoners. Talks had broken down in March when Israel began construction on a housing project for Jews in the Har Homa area of Jerusalem, which is claimed by the Palestinians.

CYPRUS

UN proposes deal to end division

THE United Nations has proposed the creation of Greek and Turkish-Cypriot federated States with equal powers to end the 23-year division of Cyprus.

The Greek and Turkish Cypriots would have federated States with identical powers and functions, their own administration and individual responsibility or security, law and order.

The federal government, which must be secular, would not be able to encroach on the power of the two States.

The proposed federation would have a single sovereignty and international personality, and single citizenship comprising two politically equal communities.

It rules out any union with any other country or any form of partition or secession, though the federal government can maintain special ties of friendship with Greece and Turkey.

USA-PAKISTAN

US passes law to resume aid

AN amendment to the Foreign Appropriations Bill, in the US Senate, has opened doors to resume US aid to Pakistan. The surprised disarmament experts see this as rewarding Islamabad's nuclear

and missile proliferation.

The amendment would allow the US to give Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) financing to American companies operating in Pakistan.

On the military front, the amendment paves way for the resumption of the International Military Education and Training (IMET) programme to Pakistani military officers in USA.

US aid to Pakistan was stopped in 1990 through the Pressler amendment for Islamabad's alleged nuclear weapons programme.

Those favouring the present amendment said that it would help in strengthening democracy in Pakistan, who is an old ally.

The US decision has accentuated India's threat perception.

Close on the heels of Islamabad's successful test-firing of the *Haft III* missile and China's upgradation of its missile regime targetted on India, along with several other countries, Washington's active role in bringing about the Harkin-Warner Amendment to the US Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 "makes India more conscious of its strategic deficiencies", as a defence analyst puts it

The gas-rich Central Asia is emerging as one of the most strategic regions in the coming years. Pakistan is strategically located as an access point to the region. The present moves are seen as Pakistan's exploitation of the geo-economuc compulsions of USA.

KOREA

Peace talks begin amid hope

ON August 5, 1997 North Korea handed over the remains of four US soldiers killed in the Korean war. This was followed by the beginning of the talks with USA, China and South Korea, aimed at forging a lasting peace on the divided Korean Peninsula.

The talks mark the first time that China is taking part in the dialogue for negotiations to replace the 1953 Armistice that ended the fighting in Korea.

US officials believe that talks will be an important test of North Korea's commitment to reduce tensions on the divided peninsula—one of the last flashpoints of the Cold War.

The border between North and South Korea is the most heavily guarded in the world. About 37,000 US troops remain in South Korea under a mutual defence pact.

North Korea's willingness to negotiate with the South appears to be due, in large part, to the country's grave economic and food crisis. The United States and South Korea are willing to provide increased aid and investment if the Cold War atmosphere is radically reduced. Even the rest of the world will feel greater sympathy if some flexibility is shown at the negotiating table.

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Current General Knowledge

ABBREVIATIONS

QR: Quantitative Restriction

NII: National Information Infrastructure

AWARDS

Bharat Ratna, 1997

ARUNA Asaf Ali (posthumously) and Gulzari Lal Nanda have been chosen for the country's highest official honour

Edgar Graham Book Prize, 1996

BINA Agarwal's book, "A Field of One's Own: Gender and Land Rights in South Asia", won the Edgar Graham Book Prize, awarded by the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. The prize is awarded every two years.

Fukuoka Prize

HISTORIAN Romila Thapar became the first Indian to receive the International Academic Prize of the Eighth Fukuoka Asian Cultural Prizes, 1997.

Gujar Mal Modi Science Award, 1997

PHYSICIST S. Ramaseshan has been chosen for the Award for his work in the field of crystallography and materials science.

Magsaysay Awards

For Environment: Environment activist Mahesh Chander Mehta

For government service: Thailand's interim Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun, for sustaining the momentum for reform and democracy in the country at the time of crisis and military rule.

For international understanding: Japan's Sadako Ogata, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), for easing the misery of refugees around the world.

For journalism, literature and creative

communication: Litterateur and social activist Mahasweta Devi.

Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award, 1997

RENOWNED singer Lata Mangeshkar has been chosen for the Award. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 2.5 lakhs.

BOOKS

An Adventure of Ideas

A collection of the writings by VN Narayanan published on Sundays in *The Hindustan Times*, of which he is the editor

Inside the CBI

WRITTEN by former Director of the CBI Joginder Singh, and due to be published later this year, the book is expected to provide an inside view of the country's premier investigating agency

The Thirst for Freedom

THE three volume epic novel, written by C S. Challappa, traces the freedom struggle under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and has Tamil Nadu and Madurai as the backdrop. Challappa wrote the epic in spite of great financial difficulties and had to sell his wife's jewellery to publish it.

Scenes From a Writer's Life

THE autobiography of English writer Ruskin Bond, it describes his first 21 years, including going to England, his struggle to find a publisher and his yearning to come back to India.

DEFENCE

Balloon System that can Obstruct Aircraft

INDIAN defence scientists have developed expertise in making Lighter Than Air (LTA) balloons that can obstruct low-

flying intruding aircraft, take photographs in sensitive border areas and carry payloads.

LTA systems played a major role during the Gulf war and are re-emerging in surveillance, communication, missile defence and command and control systems across the globe because of their low cost.

LTA systems use buoyancy as the primary source of lift unlike aircraft that rely on aerodynamic lift. The balloons are filled with a gas lighter than air. For underwater uses, they are filled with either air, nitrogen, or other gases to achieve buoyancy. The gases are retained in an envelope made of inflatable materials of high strength and gas-impermeable coated or laminated fabrics. The DRDO range of LTA systems include a Balloon Barrage System (BBS) for air defence, payload-carrying tethered balloons called aerostats and a Balloon Imaging and Surveillance Systems (BLISS).

DISCOVERY

World's Oldest Living Plant

BOTANISTS believe they have discovered the world's oldest living plant in the Tasmanian wilderness.

The plant, found in a patch of rain forest in Tasmania's southwestern world heritage area, was originally found in the 1930s. Tests indicated the *Lomatia tasmanica*, known as King's Holly, was the world's oldest plant.

New Energy Source in Arabian Sea

GEOLOGISTS have found evidence of the presence of huge amounts of methane gas in the form of "gas hydrates" in the Arabian Sea which they say could hold the key to the future energy resources India.

Gas hydrates are ice-like structures containing methane gas trapped in marine sediments at water depths of 500 to

2000 metres.

The National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad has estimated that the Indian offshore marine sediments could hold a reserve of about 7,000 billion cubic metres.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant Repaired
INDIAN nuclear scientists and engineers have successfully repaired the Rajasthan Atomic Power State-II (RAPS-II) plant which had to be shut down after the reactor's coolant tubes started sagging.

The coolant tubes, supplied by Canada, began sagging after about eight-and-a-half "full power" years of operation as against their normal life span of 20 years.

Experts from the Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC) developed technology to not only make tubes of a new alloy which would not sag in the reactor but also for cutting and replacing the existing tubes amid radioactive conditions.

The tubes had started giving trouble in Canada also and one of the Canadian reactors even had an accident sending "shock waves" throughout the countries which were operating similar reactors.

Thereafter, the atomic energy regulatory board advised that the RAPS-II should be shut down when the tubes started sagging, as a precautionary measure following the accident in Canada.

The Canadians did come out with a solution and developed a new alloy for pressure tubes application, but the new technique was not made available to India because the NPT and CTBT gave the existing nuclear-power countries the excuse of not to supply any technology or equipment related to nuclear power, to non-nuclear or non-signatory countries.

PERSONS

Ali, Aruna Asaf

HAVING died last year at the age of 87 years, Aruna Asaf Ali has been conferred the *Bharat Ratna*, 1997. She had hoisted the tricolour at a public function

in Bombay after a police crackdown during the Quit India movement in 1942 and went underground after that. She went to become a nationally respected figure, getting elected as Delhi's first mayor in 1957, launching a leftist weekly and then getting involved in social work till she was too frail to carry on.

Anand, Chetan

FILM maker Chetan Anand, who died recently, had made several thought-provoking films, including the country's first war film *Haqeeqat*. He was an active Congress worker in the 1930s in Lahore. He taught history in the early 40s and then decided to write a film script on Ashoka the Great. Thus began his film career spanning over five decades. One of the stalwarts of Hindi films in the 50s and 60s, he took to film production and direction in a big way, founding Navketan Productions.

Devi, Mahasweta

WINNER of the Jnanpith and now the Magsaysay awards, Mahasweta Devi speaks for the victims of social injustice. Beginning with *Jhansir Ram*, she has covered significant periods in the history of eastern India. She has been a teacher and served as Dy Accountant General of Posts and Telegraphs. She has also worked among the tribals of Bengal-Bihar-Orissa belt.

Malik, Lt Gen Ved Prakash

VICE-Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen V.P. Malik, has been named the next Chief of Army Staff, to succeed General Shankar Roy Chowdhury on October 1. Born on November 1, 1939, Lt Gen Malik has been involved in all theatres of counter-insurgency operations, as well as the IPKF operations in Sri Lanka and Operation Cactus in Maldives. His appointment marks the return of an Infantry Officer, after more than a decade, to the Army's top post.

Nanda, Gulzari Lal

TWICE caretaker Prime Minister of the country, in 1964 after Nehru and 1966 after Shastri, Gulzari Lal Nanda has been

awarded the *Bharat Ratna*, 1997. He was Union Home Minister in this period, resigning in 1966 when an agitation of *sadhus* outside Parliament turned violent and resulted in police firing. He never returned to active politics, engaging himself in unpublicised social work instead. He has completed 99 years of age and lives in Ahmedabad.

Narayanan, K.R.

THE new President of India, Mr Narayanan was born on October 27, 1920 in Uzhavar village in Kerala. His education came the hard way through scholarships and tuitions. He had a brilliant academic record and graduated with University College in Thiruvananthapuram in 1943. Starting his career as a lecturer, he moved to journalism, working with *The Hindu* and later, *The Times of India*. He won a Tata scholarship to the London School of Economics where he was taught by the world famous Harold Laski. As a career diplomat, he combined scholastic pursuits with diplomacy.

RESEARCH

Cloning lamb with human proteins

THE laboratory that produced the cloned sheep *Dolly* has said that it had for the first time used a similar technique to produce a lamb carrying a human protein gene.

Animals with human genes have been produced before. But the use of the "nuclear transfer" method represents a step toward achieving more efficient production of proteins that could be used to treat human disease and injury. Researchers slipped human genetic material into the nuclei of cells from sheep. These cells were then put into sheep's eggs from which the DNA genetic coding had been removed.

The resulting embryos were transplanted into sheep. Blood samples taken from the resulting lambs confirmed the presence of added genes.

It's not new to produce a human protein in animals by inserting a human gene. Such proteins are already produced in the milk of animals that received human DNA before birth.

World's Most Advanced Quake simulator

HOPING to learn how to reduce damage from earthquakes, Japan plans to build the world's biggest and most advanced earthquake simulation device.

The machine would be powerful enough to closely replicate the effects of a magnitude-7 earthquake like the one that devastated Kobe in 1995.

The testing facility would be the only one in the world powerful enough to completely reduce an actual-size building to rubble, enabling scientists to observe realistic earthquake conditions.

Japan already has the world's largest earthquake simulation facility, but it is only capable of shaking test models in two directions, up and down and left and right.

The new facility would shake the structures in three directions, as a real earthquake does. It also would be able to handle models weighing up to 1,200 tonnes, the size of a four-storey building.

SPACE

Mishap on Mir Space Station

THE embattled Mir space station lost virtually all power when the crew accidentally disconnected a vital cable, but the three-man team was not in immediate danger.

The crew was making routine preparations to repair the Mir's already damaged power system when they accidentally disconnected a cable supplying power to the orientation system, which directs the solar panels to the sun.

The error led to virtually a complete power cut in all systems' electricity, orientation, life support and communications. However, the crew can communicate with mission control from the Soyuz escape capsule, which has systems independent from the rest of Mir.

The repair mission, which has already been delayed twice, was finally launched on August 6, 1997.

MISCELLANY

World's Tallest Building

THE international council on tall buildings and urban habitat announced that

the 110-storey Sears Tower is once again the tallest sky-scraper in the world. That is, if you measure from the ground to the roof, 1,450 feet (442 metres), or from the ground to the highest occupied floor, 1,431 feet (436 metres).

The council said the twin Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, which took over the world's tallest title last year, are the highest if you measure from the ground to the top of their spires, which are considered part of the structure, 1,483 feet (452 metres).

And the World Trade Centre in Manhattan is the tallest if you measure all the way to the top of their antennas, 1,728 feet (526 metres) into the sky.

Leaning Temple yet to get recognition

A 17th century temple in Huma village of Sambalpur district stands as India's answer to the Leaning Tower of Pisa. It is, however, yet to find a place on the country's tourist map. Unlike its famous Italian counterpart, not only does the temple's main edifice lean which, according to the History Department of Sambalpur University, is a significant 47 degrees, but so do the auxiliary temples and the different gates, albeit in different directions.

The unique feature of the temple is that the Shiva *lingam*, popularly known among the people of the region as *Bimalesar*, also leans.

What perplexes researchers and archaeologists is the *Silpasashtra*, the ancient code of building, does not describe how to construct leaning edifices and while the main edifice is inclined, the pinnacle is vertical to the ground. The shrine, situated on the banks of Mahanadi river, 30 km from Sambalpur, was built in 1670 by Baliar Singh, the fifth king of Sambalpur, belonging to Chauhan dynasty.

Math Olympiad

INDIA won three silver and three bronze medals at the 38th International Mathematical Olympiad (world math contest for high school students), held at Mardel Plata, Argentina. India ranked 15th among 82 participating countries while China

topped the list.

Advanced Param Supercomputer

INDIA'S fastest computer capable of making 100,000 million calculations per second is on the way. India is thus poised to become the third country in the world to possess such advanced machines.

Just this year, the US and Japan have unveiled new teraflop supercomputers with computing power of one teraflop or 1000 gigaflops (one gigaflop is 1000 million floating operations per second).

The Centre for Development of advanced Supercomputing (CDAC), Pune, is working to produce India's first supercomputer with teraflop architecture by March 1998.

The computer is expected to find wide application in long-range weather forecasting, seismic data processing, oil exploration, remote sensing data, launch vehicle simulation and drug design.

Unique Breast Milk Bank

IN a unique and pioneering effort, India's first and only breast milk bank has been successfully promoting breastfeeding for the last eight years at the Lokmanya Tilak Hospital, Mumbai.

Although a number of institutions in the country use expressed (extracted) breastmilk from mothers to feed other babies, there is no other organised milk bank with adequate infrastructure.

Set up in 1989, the bank works in coordination with the 32-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and the 15-bedded transitional care unit.

The first human milk bank in the world was opened in Vienna at the turn of the 20th century. There are now about seven human milk banks each in the UK and the USA and one in Canada, which function on a commercial basis.

Milk donors are tested for syphilis, HIV, malnutrition, jaundice, tuberculosis and hepatitis-B. Set up with donations from the Taj group of hotels, at an approximate cost of Rs 3 lakh, the bank's running expenditure is now met by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

SPORTS

GAMES

World Athletics Championships

THE sixth World Athletics Championships were inaugurated at the 2300-year old Panathinaikon stadium in Greece on August 2, 1997. A show of Greek culture and civilisation was staged, escorted by tunes of Oscar-winning Greek composer Vangelis. The country also wanted to show that it could hold the Olympics in 2004. IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch and mayors of the four other bidding cities were in attendance at Athens to watch the spectacle. The stadium had been built in 330-329 BC for the Panathenean Games.

CHESS

Credit Suisse Masters Chess Tournament

INDIA'S Vishwanath Anand took a very short draw against FIDE World Champion Anatoly Karpov of Russia and won the Credit Suisse Masters Chess Tournament played at Biel. He received S Fr 12,000 (Rs 3 lakh) award.

CRICKET

The Ashes

MEDIUM paceman Paul Reiffel bowled Australia to a 2-1 Ashes lead by taking 5 wickets to help his team defeat England by an innings and 61 runs in the fourth cricket Test at Headingley. It was the first time in 60 years that Australia could take a lead in an Ashes series. Australia lost the first Test at Edgbaston while the second Test at Lord's ended in a draw because of rain. They won the third Test at Old Trafford by 268 runs.

India-Sri Lanka Test Series

SANATH Jayasurya became the 13th batsman to score a triple century in Tests, when he scored 326 on the fourth day of the first cricket Test against India at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. The unbeaten stand of 548 runs between

Jayasurya and Roshan Mahanama also established a new partnership record for any wicket in Test Cricket. It was the first instance of a partnership of 500 or more runs in Test Cricket, the previous record being 467 runs between A.H. Jones and M.D. Crowe for New Zealand. India had scored 537 for 8 declared in the Test, to which the Sri Lankans replied with 952 for 6 in the drawn match.

Asia Cup

SRI Lanka inflicted a humiliating 8-wicket defeat on defending champions India in the Pepsi Asia Cup final, which ended with 134 overs to spare, at the Premadasa stadium in Colombo. Replying to India's 239 for 7 in 50 overs, Sri Lanka scored 240 for 2 in 36.2 overs. Sanath Jayasurya scores a rapid 63, supported by unbeaten knocks of 84 by Marvan Atapattu and 62 by skipper Arjuna Ranatunga.

FOOTBALL

Federation Cup

SALGAOCAR Club of Goa beat defending champions Fast Bengal 2-1 to regain the Kalyani Black Label Federation Cup after a long gap of 8 years at the Salt Lake Stadium in Calcutta. Star striker Bruno Coutinho scored two goals to shatter East Bengal's hopes of retaining the Cup for the second consecutive year.

GOLF

British Open

JUSTIN Leonard became the fifth American in a row to win the British Open at Royal Troon, when he carded a final round 65 to charge past Sweden's Jasper Parnevik in the last three holes.

TENNIS

Wimbledon

PETE Sampras won his fourth singles title at Wimbledon and 10th Grand Slam title,

beating Frenchman Cedric Pioline after one hour 35 minutes. The 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 win put him ahead of Fred Perry, John McEnroe and Boris Becker and has only Bjorn Borg and Roy Emerson in front of him in terms of winning Grand Slam titles.

In the women's singles Martina Hingis defeated Novotna to become the youngest Wimbledon Champion.

Australians Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde won their fifth straight Wimbledon men's double title, equaling a record set almost a century ago.

In women's doubles, the team of American Gigi Fernandez and Natasha Zvereva of Belarus won their fourth Wimbledon doubles titles and their 14th Grand Slam as a team. They defeated American Nicole Pietrangeli and Manon Bollegraf of the Netherlands 7-6, (7-4), 6-4.

du Maurier Open

INDIA'S Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi touched another milestone in their doubles career by beating the third-seeded Sebastian Lareau of Canada and Alex O'Brien of the US 7-6, (7-3), 6-3 in the final of the \$ 2.05 million du Maurier Open ATP Super 9 series hard court event in Montreal, Canada.

WEIGHTLIFTING

Asian Weightlifting Championship

KARNAM Malleswari earned the first gold for India along with two silvers in the women's 59 kg class even as China maintained their domination in the Asian Weightlifting Championship held at Yangzhou. Malleswari bagged the overall gold with a combined effort of 217.5 kg, beating the silver medalist Patmawati of Indonesia and bronze winner Wu Mei-Yi of Chinese Taipei, both of whom managed 215 kg each. She won a silver each in snatch and clean and jerk hoisting 97.5 kg and 120 kg respectively.

China swept the championship with 17 golds and 27 overall.

The Examiner's Guess Questions

Q. When was the World Population Day observed?

Ans. July 11, 1997

Q. If the current trend of population growth continues, by which year will India surpass the population of China?

Ans. India's population is at present 960 million, growing by 16 million per year, which means 45,000 per day and 31 per minute, while China's population is 1244 million. If the current trend continues, India will surpass China in 2050 with a population of 1600 million. India is expected to reach fertility rate of 2.1 in 2026 but some States will take much longer. Among the States, Kerala has the lowest birth rate of 18 per 1000 and highest in UP with 34.8 per 1000.

Q. What is the foodgrains production target for the terminal year of the Ninth Plan (1997-2002)?

Ans. Backed by the Union Agriculture Ministry, planners have set a target for the terminal year of the Ninth Plan at 225 million tonnes. This means a compounded annual growth rate of 4.5 per cent over the next five years.

Q. Name the building which was the headquarters of the Congress in Cuttack, which is to be converted into a memorial this year?

Ans. The *Swaraj Ashram* in Cuttack, which was the epicentre of activities during the freedom struggle. It remained headquarters of the Congress till a new building was constructed in the mid-70s. The State government has decided to convert the house into a memorial for the martyrs of the freedom movement to commemorate the golden jubilee of the Independence.

Q. Where is India's first Oceanarium being set up?

Ans. India's first Oceanarium is to be built by an Australian firm in Goa at a

cost of Rs 56 crore. Over 6,000 marine animals including sharks, turtles, fish, crabs, sea urchins and corals would be among the 350 species kept there.

Q. In terms of foreign direct approvals between 1991 to 1997, which countries are the top foreign investors in India?

Ans. USA was the top investor country in India with foreign direct investment approvals worth Rs 2,88,920 million, followed by UK with Rs 66,446 million and South Korea was third with Rs 53,960 million.

Q. What is the level of unaccounted money in India?

Ans. According to a study by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, the unaccounted money in the country was estimated to be between Rs 31,584 crore and Rs 36,786 crore.

Q. Which political party has recently been declared eligible for claiming the status of a national party?

Ans. The Bahujan Samaj Party was recently declared eligible for claiming the status of a national party. The EC has laid down a criteria that a political party is treated as a State party if it fulfills any of the two conditions, that it has engaged in political activity for the last five years and in the general elections, has returned at least one MP for every 25 members, or that a party should have returned at least one member to the legislative assembly for every 30 members. The second criterion is that the total number of votes polled by such parties either in the assembly or the Lok Sabha is not less than 4 per cent of the total votes polled.

Q. Name the movie being made which is based on a book by Mahasweta Devi and has Jaya Bachchan in it?

Ans. *Hazaar Chaurasi Ki Maa*, directed by Govind Nihalani.

Q. Name the trains that collided with

each other in Faridabad on July 27?

Ans. Himsagar Express and Karnataka Express.

Q. Where was the G-8 summit held recently?

Ans. Denver.

Q. What was the name of the unmanned service vehicle which rammed into the Mir space station, damaging it?

Ans. Progress.

Q. Pol Pot, responsible for killing over 2 million people in Cambodia, headed which movement?

Ans. The Khmer Rouge.

Q. Who was the Italian fashion designer who was killed in USA recently?

Ans. Gianni Versace.

Q. Where is the breast milk bank located in the country?

Ans. India's first and only breast milk bank has been operating for the last 8 years from Lokmanya Tilak Hospital in Mumbai.

Q. Who is the recipient of Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for 1995?

Ans. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Q. What is the name of the book that has created a controversy because it reveals facts about Ambedkar's life?

Ans. *Worshipping False Gods* by Arun Shourie.

Q. What is the percentage of women in India's Parliament?

Ans. 7.1 per cent. This figure is behind Sweden (40.4 per cent), New Zealand (29.2 per cent) and China (21 per cent) but higher than Arab nations with an average 3.3 per cent women in their Parliaments.

Q. Who has been adjudged best actor and actress for 1996 by the All India Critics Association?

Ans. Nana Patekar for his performance in *Agnisakshi* and Aparna Sen for her role in *Unishé April*.

Appointments Etc

APPOINTED, ELECTED ETC

Kocheril Raman Narayanan: He was sworn in as the 11th President of India.

Lt Gen Ved Prakash Malik: He has been named as the next Chief of Army Staff, to take charge on October 1st.

V.S. Rama Devi: She has been appointed Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

Rabri Devi: She has been appointed Chief Minister of Bihar.

Sharad Yadav: He was elected President of the Janata Dal.

Kamlesh Sharma: He has been appointed as India's permanent representative in the United Nations.

Shymala B. Cowsik: She has been appointed High Commissioner of India to Cyprus.

Hari Kishore Singh: Former Union Minister of State for External Affairs, he has

been appointed as Ambassador to Syria.

RESIGNED

Andris Skele: Prime Minister of Latvia.

Laloo Prasad Yadav: Chief Minister of Bihar.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Alexander Downer: Australia's Minister for External Affairs.

Yukihiko Ikeda: Japanese Foreign Minister.

Katsuhito Asano: Japanese parliamentary vice minister (defence agency).

DIED

Chetan Anand: Film maker, known for his thought-provoking and realistic films, including *Haqeeqat*.

Pandit Shashi Mohan Bhatt: Sitar Maestro.

29—The CBI orders the arrest of Laloo Prasad Yadav, following rejection of his anticipatory bail by the Supreme Court.

30—Laloo Prasad Yadav surrenders before a designated court and is remanded to judicial custody till August 6th.

—Twin bomb blasts rip through West Jerusalem, killing 18 people.

AUGUST

1—A 3-month ceasefire begins in Nagaland, raising hopes of a political dialogue to resolve the Naga issue; the government declares a public holiday to mark the occasion.

—A Delhi court orders framing of the charges against Sharad Yadav in the hawala case.

2—About 251 people are reported killed when the Sri Lankan security forces repulse a major LTTE assault.

5—India and China resolve to settle border dispute amicably.

6—Insurance Bill is withdrawn by the UF government in the wake of fierce opposition to the entry of multinationals in the Insurance sector.

EVENTS

JULY

5—The Janata Party suffers a split as Laloo Prasad supporters rename it "Rashtriya Janata Dal" and elect him as president of the new outfit.

6—Fighting breaks out between forces loyal to the rival Prime Ministers in Phnom Penh; thousands flee the Cambodian capital.

7—Shooting, rioting and a bomb attack on a west Belfast police station sweep Catholic areas of Northern Ireland after a Protestant march is forced through a Catholic neighbourhood.

8—At least 33 persons are killed in a bomb blast on the Bathinda-Ambala passenger train near Bathinda.

11—Ten people are killed and 18 injured in Mumbai when police opens fire on a mob following garlanding of an Ambedkar statue with chappals.

—The CBI special court rejects anticipatory bail applications of Bihar CM Laloo Prasad Yadav and others in the fodder scam case.

13—Reacting to the US nuclear test and

test firing of *Hatf-III* missile by Pakistan, Prime Minister Gujral declares that India's nuclear options are open and that *Agni* missile is not shelved.

14—Brisk polling is reported in the 11th Presidential elections in all 25 States and the Union Territories of Delhi and Pondicherry.

15—The Laloo Prasad government in Bihar wins a vote of confidence while the Opposition parties abstain from voting.

18—A wooden ferry sinks in Indonesia, killing 83 people.

19—The Irish Republican Army (IRA) announces a ceasefire, opening a fresh chapter in northern Ireland's search for peace.

24—The Patna High Court rejects Laloo Prasad Yadav's plea for anticipatory bail.

25—K.R. Narayanan takes over as President of India.

27—Two passenger trains collide at Faridabad, killing more than 20 people.

MILESTONES

P.S. Rao: Scientist at the National Institute of Oceanography in Goa, he became the first Indian to reach the deep sea floor in the mid-Atlantic. He had participated in the three-week long diving expedition along with scientists of Rutgers University, USA, to study hydrothermal vents at depths beyond 4,000 metres in the mid-Atlantic range.

Gaurav Ghel: First Indian in recent history to qualify for the British Open Golf.

Ravi Shankar: Sitar maestro who is among five persons selected for the Padma Sri Award for his contribution to the arts.

Anand Sen: Economist and professor at Harvard University, he has been appointed as Master of Trinity College, Cambridge. He first had to be appointed head of a college at Oxford or Cambridge University.

Mission to Mars

Mars, the red planet, is named after the Roman god of war. It is the fourth planet from the sun and the third in order of increasing mass. It has two moons, Phobos and Deimos. At its closest approach, Mars is about 55 million km from the earth. The planet has inspired human imagination because of its earth-like features. Thin canals noticed on it suggest that water may have flown on it once; last year scientists announced that a piece of rock believed to have come from Mars even had evidence of life on it.

On July 4, 1997, NASA's robot craft landed on Mars and began sending back breathtaking pictures of the planet. The unmanned space craft had been launched on December 4, 1996 as part of the Discovery project of NASA. The *Pathfinder* travelled for seven months at 20,000 km an hour to reach the red planet in a circular path. The mission represented another giant leap for mankind, the ultimate in remote controlled robotics. The robotic vehicle, *Sojourner*, is powered by solar panels and equipped to perform geo-chemical and atmospheric experiments on the surface of the planet.

The pictures received from the *Pathfinder* were breathtaking. It revealed earth-like features and its rock-strewn surface resembled a wind blown desert on earth. The *Sojourner* is a toy-like, micro-processor-controlled robotic vehicle, weighing 11.5 kg. It was initially expected to work for seven *sols* (one Martian day) week, but NASA expects that it will be roaming around for a few months. The spacecraft are controlled from the earth. The task can well be imagined as signals take nearly 10 minutes and 25 seconds to reach the earth. To overcome the difficulties this causes, scientists used photographs sent by the lander's camera named *Imager* and programmed the robot hours before it actually carried out the operations.



Previous knowledge of Mars had come from six unmanned missions from 1964 to 1976. The *Mariner 4* had sent pictures in 1964 and the flyby *Mariner 6* and 7 in 1969. The first Mars orbiter, *Mariner 9*, launched in 1971, studied the planet for almost an year. In 1976, two *Viking* craft landed on it and carried out direct investigations of the atmosphere and surface. By the time the *Viking* craft fell silent in 1982, the orbiters had sent 52,000 pictures and mapped 97 per cent of the planet's surface.

It was found that the Martian atmosphere consists of 95 per cent carbon dioxide besides nitrogen, argon, oxygen, water vapour, carbon monoxide and noble gases. The pressure is less than 1/100 of that of the earth. Its reddish colour comes from its heavily oxidised or rusted surface.

Using the *Viking* pictures, scientists decided to land the *Pathfinder* on a plain called *Ares Vallis*, near the Martian equator. The craft has recorded a daytime temperature of minus 12 degrees centigrade and a night temperature of minus 76

degrees. The six wheeled robot took soil samples and did chemical analysis on them. It used an alpha proton X-ray spectrometer to analyse the rocks. The first few rocks analysed by it were named *Barnacle Bill*, *Yogi*, *Casper* and *Scooby-Doo* by the scientists.

The feat of the *Pathfinder* was amazing. It had landed on the surface encased in shock absorbing air bags and bounced a few times before coming to rest. The angle of approach had to be precise 14.2 degrees otherwise the mission would have crashed. The balloons had then opened out, much like a flower and the robot had rolled out to conduct its experiments. There were anxious moments when one of the balloons did not deflate completely and later, when there were communication problems. They were, however, sorted out.

The mission represents NASA's design philosophy dubbed as "Better, Faster, Cheaper". The *Vikings* had cost \$ 3 billion and eight years to develop, but the *Pathfinder* has cost \$ 250 million and was developed in just four years. The low cost enables NASA to send more probes. Another craft, *Mars Global Surveyor*, is expected to settle in its orbit and map the terrain for about two years. Eight more ships will be launched in the next eight years. Other planets will also be studied.

The success of the *Pathfinder* mission brought cheer to scientists across the world. Controlling a vehicle from millions of kilometres away represents the ultimate in robotics and the ingenuity of man.

There are many queries which the mission will answer. There is little likelihood of finding life on its rusting surface but perhaps it can find traces of life that may have existed on it millions of years ago. The mission certainly represents a giant leap for mankind. By 2005, NASA hopes to send its first-ever round trip to Mars, and bring back some rock and soil from the planet.

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Destiny's Clarion Call

Jawaharlal Nehru, in a message to the Press on August 15, 1947, had said, "the appointed day has come, the day appointed by destiny, and India stands forth again, after long slumber and struggle, awake vital, free and independent." He went on rather rhetorically that a new hope comes into being, a vision long cherished materialises. May "the star (emphasis ours) never set and that hope never be betrayed!"

After that day appointed by destiny, India stands or sinks in slumber and struggle, series of scams, ministers and Prime Ministers caught in the coils of law, criminals stalking the Parliament. According to our study there are over 40 members of legislatures and Parliament with criminal cases against their names. Nehru had a penchant for grand visions—often ungrounded in reality. He proclaimed that we would build up a prosperous, democratic and progressive nation and create institutions that would ensure justice and fulness of life to every man and woman. Today, it reads like a hyperbolic overstatement.

The present Prime Minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, speaking on August 15 from the "ramparts" of the Red Fort, pompously talked of eradicating corruption from all walks of life. His oration dealing with ethics in public life sounded hollow like that of a scholar who is well-versed in looks but hollow himself! The quality of life (irrespective of Nehru's declaration) has touched the nadir. So much so that the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, disgusted at the unruly behaviour of the members of Parliament, said, "I am ashamed of being a Speaker of this House!"

Let's face the facts. It's no use living in the past and glorifying it. India, today, is afflicted with a host of ills ranging from social, economic, political and moral. The over-reaching link between the corrupt civil servant and equally, if not more, corrupt politician, is posing a threat to dear Bharat of Bapu's dreams. In this brief backdrop, can we, in a fit of honesty, claim that we have built a "prosperous, democratic and progressive nation"? Have we created institutions that ensure justice and fulness of life to every man and woman?



The four pillars of democracy—executive, judiciary, legislature and the Fourth Estate—today seem gasping for precious breath. Secularism, which is parroted by politicians, has received the severest setback in the recent years. The dirt that has gathered in the Indian polity can't be swept away except by a popular movement or upsurge.

Converting the day into a gala celebration, sans substance, making people utter "Vande Mataram" on blue

screens is like decorating the school on annual inspection day! The solution lies in dumping in the dustbin of history, the lumpen elements of the polity, launch a new movement to build a new nation fed on the spirit of sacrifice of the freedom movement. This means two things: introspection and revival of the spirit of the yore that brought freedom. The present crop of "leaders", with blinkers on their eyes, can't lead us but into a deeper abyss.

Destiny has sounded a warning!

READERS' FORUM

The best two letters of the month, appearing in the box, have been awarded a prize of Rs 100.00 each. Readers are invited to send us their views on topics covered in this issue. You can also e-mail your response to desh@ch1.vsnl.net.in. The decision of the Editors will be final.

THE MODERN INDIAN

The tragic transformation of people from selfless to selfish ones is a phenomenon related not only to India but to almost all nations of the world. Corruption has resulted out of the spread of consumerism and materialism, encouraging people to live beyond their means. Unless the flaws of globalisation are checked, the danger to nationalism and nationhood will not go away.

Gaurav Maleri
Ludhiana, Punjab

Your cover story was extremely thought-provoking and made very good reading. One gets very sad to think about our great country and how it is going, especially with the unfeeling way that we ruin our natural resources. As you have mentioned, we are polluting our country in a very big way and have no sense of cleanliness. I do hope that in spite of that, we leave our country a good place for the coming generation.

Deena Jose C.
Kochi, Kerala

UNPRODUCTIVE BABUS

It is often mentioned that people do not pay taxes because they do not want to finance the salaries of "unproductive babus" (August '97). I object to this, because it is the government officers, drawing many times the salaries of babus, are the unproductive ones. They cannot even write their letters and only sign on draft letters prepared by their assistants. The babus are thus the real backbone of the government and the officers are merely showpieces. There may be a few exceptions, but generally speaking the babus are the only productive people that the government has today.

Sanjeev Srivastava
Lucknow

CHARGESHEETED POLITICIANS

Your debate, "Should Chargesheeted Politicians Resign" has come not a day too soon. The reputation of the political class lies in tatters today and it will lose all respectability if the charged politicians continue to seek cover under the canopy of legal and constitutional niceties. Political leaders should pay heed and introduce some morality in public life if they are to survive in the country.

P.C. Srnha
Patna, Bihar

The debate covered all the relevant aspects in a balanced manner. In the case of Bihar, I can say that the politicians at the Centre are also to blame for inaction. Once Laloo was chargesheeted, his government should have been dismissed. If the government does not take action where it is warranted, it sends a signal to all corrupt people that it is all right to make a mockery of justice and even the Constitution by installing their wives before they are sent to jail.

Dinesh Kumar Dubey
Bahraich, U.P.

SOFTWARE CAREERS

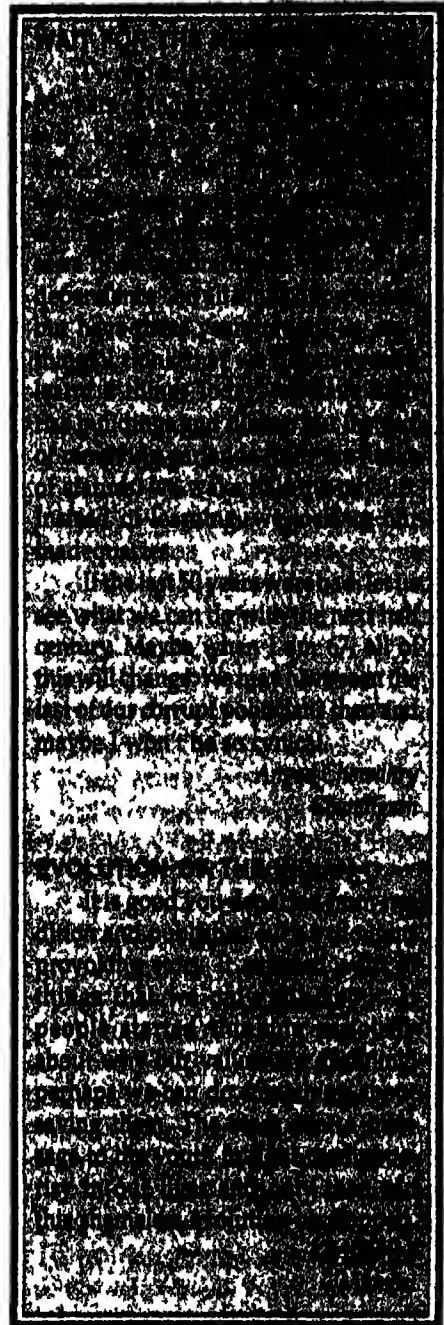
We were pleased to read your article under the caption of Career—Careers in Software Development in your May '97 issue. Many of the aspects mentioned in that article is being addressed by us by focussing on a different path which is—End-User Computer Training. Therefore it would be wrong to club us alongwith institutes like NIIT, APTECH, TULEC.

However, we appreciate your efforts in publishing such an article, as it would be very helpful for students interested in a career with computers.

R. Gunashekar, Sr Manager
Corporate Communications, First Computers
Chennai

THE NEW PRESIDENT

Mr Narayanan's election as the new President is a gift to the nation on its fiftieth anniversary. Even though in our set-up the role of the President is not very prominent, yet the fact that he



could rise to such a post shows how great our country is.

Sunej V.
Paripally, Kerala

CM FEATURES

I am a regular reader of your magazine. I find all the information very succinct and beautifully presented. It gives me a source of encouragement for my competitive exams.

Karun Raj Singh
Pathankot, Punjab

ESSAY

Dreams and Fantasies: A Dangerous Addiction

IF dreams make us drones, fantasies render us fools in the eyes of those who work and weave the fabulous fabric of progress and prosperity. The world of dreams and fantasies is fake but that of efforts and adventures is factual. Building castles in the air and living in one's own make-believe world of dreams and fantasies reduces us to become passive and parasites. There is nothing as inspiring and intoxicating as the fruits of love and labour. There is no denying the fact that if work is the panacea for all our socio-economic ills, dreams and fantasies are its worst enemies. Those who try to seek shelter under the umbrella of dreams and fantasies and run away from the realities of life, deny themselves the true trance of ecstasy and excellence that lie in work.

Man is said to be the maker of his own destiny. If he makes up his mind to achieve his heart's desires, there is no power on earth that can thwart his plans. The proverb that 'man lives by the sweat of brow' speaks volumes of the value and virtue that work enjoys in human perceptions and practices. Life is not a dream only to be fed on fads and fantasies, but a real challenge that requires tight rope walking lest we stumble and cut a sorry figure.

The addicts of dreams and fantasies have nothing to look forward to, but their own decay and decline. Nothing sustains the sum and substance of life's noble mission except hard work in the right direction. Parasites are known to have drained the wells of wealth and dreamers and wasted the elixir of life by doing nothing except making houses of cards and raising hollow hopes. It takes no time for these dream houses to crumble under the weight of our inactivity and inertia. What leads one step forward after another is our per-

severance backed by proper planning and august action.

The stories of such successful persons as have risen from 'rags to riches' are a telling testimony to the fact that great heights are achieved by constant and consistent labour alone. Life is not mere contemplation but an action-packed drama with many a success and failure, hope and disappointment. If one could become rich by seeing dreams and flouting fantasies there would have been no need of farms, factories, laboratories and a thousand other places of enterprise and entrepreneurial skills.

It is the privilege of poets and other creative artists to fly on the wings of imagination and make such compositions as express the most exalting and ecstatic moments of their experience or fanciful flights. But ordinary mortals, who have to earn their bread and butter, cannot afford to seek their safe haven in the aerial world of dreams and fantasies.

Fame and fortune are not the handmaids of dreams and a gift of run-away fantasies. Dreams, like the spider's cobweb, entrap us to pine and waste whereas earnest efforts show the glittering graffiti that human civilisation stands for. Falling a prey to intoxicants and drugs as an easy escape from the harsh realities of life means slow but certain death. Taking recourse to day-dreaming and the foliage of fantasies are morally morbid and mentally mauling.

Dreams for those who know their mission in life, are like tonics with the help of which they bring about revolutionary changes in the milieu around and the society at large. The glamour of civilisation that enthralls and enlivens us every moment, is the coveted conse-

quence of dreams turning into daring deeds and fantasies becoming feats of hands, heads and hearts. Men of vision and wisdom do not sit on laurels but chisel and change the course of history and thus realise their dreams with relentless efforts and supreme sacrifices, if need be. Once a while, we may indulge in wishful thinking and enjoy the luxury of creating a world of dreams and fantasies without losing sight of the fact that excessive dependence on this addiction is both dangerous as well as damaging.

No doubt, dreams too have a positive place in our lives. To discard them as dead-wood and sickly-symptoms of an ailing mind is to betray our ignorance. Who can deny the ringing reality of aeroplanes, the invention of which came about after the Wright brothers had dreamt of flying in the air like birds. Again, it was the dream of many mountaineers like Edmund Hillary to conquer the invincible Mount Everest against all odds and obstacles. And the dream was realised, though after many unsuccessful attempts and failures. Again it was considered to be a fantasy to think of landing on the Moon but here again it did not take long for the Americans to land on Moon and create history of all sorts. H.G. Wells' stories evoked snides and sneers for being highly fantastic in concept and wild fancy. But today we are more than convinced that most dreams and fantasies of the creative/inventive minds have become the roaring realities of today.

Of course, dreams devoid of hard work and fantasies bereft of faith in one's brain and brawn powers, is certainly a dangerous addiction which we should do our best to get over before they become our second nature.

THIS MONTH YESTERDAY

October: Before and After Independence

Before Independence

Predominant in the long array of significant events which took place during the months of October in the pre-independence history of India include: Gandhiji deciding to begin spinning for half an hour everyday before second meal and taking vow to forgo the meal in case he failed to do so, on October 31, 1921, inception of Air Force (RIAF) in India on October 8, 1932, launching of Tata Air-Mail Service on October 15, 1932, expelling of 'rebel' Dr N.B. Kher by Congress Working Committee from the Congress for 2 years on October 2, 1938 and decision of the League to join Interim Government on October 15, 1946. In this section, we shall focus on the writings of Mahatma Gandhi and establishment of Provisional Government in 1943.

Gandhiji's writings

It was during the month of October in 1921 that Mahatma Gandhi wrote a series of some outstanding articles in the *Navajivan* and *Young India*. For instance, in *Navajivan* he wrote on 'My Loin-cloth' (October 2), on the problems of Indian in East Africa (October 6), on observance of strict non-violence, adoption of *swadeshi*, etc. (October 9), called upon Bombay to complete *swadeshi* programme and to be the first province to start peaceful revolt in the form of Civil Disobedience (October 16). In the same issue Mahatma Gandhi also criticized the colour bar in Fiji and East Africa, and untouchability in India. Later, in the *Young India* he wrote on 'The Meaning of Moplah Rising' (October 20). On October 23 in *Navajivan*, Gandhiji appealed to the workers at Ahmedabad to give up drinking habit, and in *Young India* he wrote on 'Honour the Prince' (October 27).

Provisional Government

Following the setting up of a free Government in Philippines on October 14, 1943 and in the back drop of growing strength of Indian National Army, the stage was virtually set to bring into being the provisional government of free India, like the other provisional governments in exile. After celebrations, October 21, 1943 was decided as the day for the establishment of the provisional government. And in the Cathay Hall, Singapore, with the proclamation 'in the name of God, in the name of bygone generations.' Subhas Chandra Bose called upon the Indian people to rally round the banner. In the final struggle against the British. Starting with Japan's recognising the provisional government of free India on October 23, nine countries—Burma, Croatia, Germany, China, Italy, Thailand, the Philippines and Manchuria—extended recognition.

After Independence

Prominent among the events which occurred during the months of October in the post-independence history of India, include: inauguration of Andhra Pradesh, the first linguistic State in India, by Jawahar Lal Nehru, on October 1, 1953, inauguration of Chandigarh, the first linguistic modern city in India, by Dr Rajendra Prasad, on October 7, 1953, inauguration of Integral Coach Factory at Perambur by Jawahar Lal Nehru on October 2, 1963, inauguration of Bombay television station on October 2, 1972, launching of National Adult Education Programme on October 2, 1978 and launching of *Jan Morcha* on October 2, 1987.

In this section, we shall focus on Mahatma Gandhi's last October and news

from the World of Cricket.

Gandhiji's last October

On October 2, 1947 streams of visitors, including Lord and Lady Mountbatten and persons from foreign embassies, came to greet Mahatma Gandhi. When Lady Mountbatten offered greeting to Mahatma Gandhi, he lamented.. "more proper to offer condolences than to offer congratulations, I do not wish to live long." While hatred and killings marred the post-independent atmosphere, Mahatma Gandhi painfully said "Nobody now listens to what I say." However, when on October 4 he drew the attention of his hearers to the approaching cold weather and appealed to all who could afford to donate warm blankets and quilts for the refugees, his appeal was reciprocated with an overwhelming response. On October 14 the *Charge d'Affaires* of Iran and his wife brought a large number of blankets.

World of Cricket

Indian cricket world registered some epoch-making moments. For instance, on October 16, 1978 Kapil Dev made his Test debut. On October 4, 1979 Sunil Gavaskar set the record of scoring 1000 runs in a calendar year for the third time. On October 7, 1979 at Kanpur, India registered a sensational win in the Test against Australia with 14 minutes and 20 mandatory overs to go. On October 5, 1986 at Ahmedabad, Kapil Dev became the first Indian and the third in the world to lead his country for the 50th time. On October 13, 1994 Bombay's Zubin Bharucha, while scoring 164 runs, equalled Gavaskar's record of making century on debut in Iran Trophy.

PARAGRAPH-WRITING

Model Paragraphs

"A thing of beauty is a joy for ever".

Beauty is both in the object as well as in the eye of the beholder. Emotions recollected in tranquillity and the image or picture recreated on the mental screen, is a constant source of joy and inspiration. Since all objects are subject to decline and decay, their essence and soul remain permanently imprinted on the sensibilities and sensitivities of the beholder. In a pensive mood, when nothing disturbs the smooth surface of one's mind the object of beauty once seen, re-appears and offers a rare joy and excitement. Beauty in all its manifestations stands for truth, that knows no boundaries or barriers and adds meaning and purpose to human existence, which otherwise remains wedded to mundane passions and pursuits. Beauty has a magical touch in its halo and the one who can see it in the smallest and the most stupendous objects around, is never starved of joy that emits from them as fragrance does from flowers. Beauty, like light, enlightens our minds and effaces the impressions of baser elements or feelings. The one who fails to see and appreciate beauty around oneself, fails to read the message.

"A stitch in time saves nine"

At every turn and twist of our life's sojourn, if we take action or do a piece of work immediately, it may save a lot of extra work or worry later. A breach noticed in a dam, river or canal bank and a crack seen in a wall or building, deserve immediate corrective action. Indifference on anybody's part can cause irreparable loss later on and any regret at that stage can only add insult to injury. Timely stitch in the clothes or robes can save us from a lot

of botheration when the whole thing tears apart and puts us in an awkward and embarrassing situation. Most of our sorrows flow from a state of negligence and the resultant pain comes about because somewhere in the past we failed to act in time and allowed the gaps to become big holes. Sometimes the price of negligence or callousness can be fairly high, even death, as we read about mishaps or accidents, that result because of our carelessness or casual attitude.

"If hopes were dupes, fears may be liars".

Though hope sustains life, yet man by nature is always haunted by the fear that his hopes may dump him and prove deceptive. Just as some human faces are intriguing and intractable, similarly some hopes may never bear fruit or come up to our expectations. Since hopes and fears have no logic of their own, their place in our lives is more or less a matter of our state of mind, financial crisis or calculations and above all the impact of events and happenings that are likely to affect our fortune. The best counsel that a wise man gives to one and all is that where there are hopes or expectations, there are fears and disappointments. In fact, both hopes and fears are like illusions that stimulate or depress us and it all depends upon our psychic condition and material mores. If under the stress of economic or social uncertainties, we assure ourselves that all hopes are fake and fictitious, the fault lies with us and nowhere else. If hopes are dupes or deceptive, our fears may be equally unfounded and untenable. It is the weak mind and fickle heart within us that fears even the shadow and treats

even the rustle of wind as the storm of misfortune. The best course in a situation of hopes appearing futile and fears lacking any substance or reality, is to take things in their stride, do your best and leave the rest to God.

"Television tells, books educate".

There is no denying that television tells the tales of the times whereas books embody wisdom of the ages in their wombs. If the impact of the former is transitory, the influence of the latter is beyond the purview of time. Television presents stories of today in all its glitter and glitz, but books contain treasure-troves of words, phrases, thoughts and profundity. Television is a craze with all age groups but books have selective scholars, who look up to them for education and enlightenment of their minds. Through the printed words, books convey knowledge that stands the test of times and stand by human beings in their hour of adversity as their true friends and constant companions. Television, through its visuals, tells the happenings that take place around the world but books analyse them and sift the chaff from the grain. Without books our education remains incomplete and incoherent. If television is a sensation, books are a mental exercise. It needs no effort to watch television and remain glued to it for hours but for a reader of books, a meaningful rapport between the writer and the reader is the starting point of all understanding, knowledge and finally self-education. Where television fails to console, books offer comfort. With books, we can travel, both into the past as well as into the possible shape of things to come.

ARTICLE

Rationalisation of Urban Land Ceiling

It was realised since the last many years that many provisions of existing Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act 1976 had become redundant and needed through revision. The government of India, thus, appointed an Inter-Departmental Committee under the Chairmanship of the Union Urban Development Minister N P. Singh which submitted its report recently. The Committee was asked to submit its report on the issues pertaining to the amendments to be made in the existing Act so that the Urban Land Ceiling Act was amended in conformity with the changing needs of the time. While the popular demand to do away with the Act altogether has not been accepted by the Committee, yet it has proposed significant changes in the Act which may have wide-ranging effects on the urban land holdings in near future.

Pressing Need

THE Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act (ULCARA) has been in force since 1976. It is imposed on both ownership and possession of vacant land in urban agglomerations. This ceiling depends upon the classification of the urban town/city on a graded basis. Excess vacant land is taken over by the government to be used for the common good of the urban areas concerned. Government, however, reserves the power to grant exemption in certain specific cases and regulates the transfer of land within the limit of ceiling. The performance of the Act, however, has left much to be desired. The performance can be judged by the number of cases pending and decided on the one hand and excess land vested in the government, on the other.

Judging by the above criteria, the performance of ULCARA can, by no stan-

dards, be described as good. Out of over 4 lakh applications filed in respect of excess vacant land, only in respect of about 2.6 lakh, statements have been filed. Similarly, out of 2.2 lakh hectares (ha) of land determined to be excess, vacant land vested in the State governments measures only about 48 thousand ha. Even out of the above, only in case of about 17 thousand ha possession has been taken. This works out to a meagre 7 per cent of the total vacant land held in excess of the ceiling. The exemptions granted under Sections 20 and 21 of the Act have also been granted as a matter of routine.

The existing Act also lacks definitions of certain important terms like land appurtenant and vacant land, and inadequate definitions of terms like plinth area, redevelopment and exemption. The Act also results in undue delay in identification and finalisation of the quantum of excess vacant land. Due to lack of *suo moto* powers with the competent authority, it is becoming increasingly difficult to identify and declare excess vacant land under the Act. Even the cumbersome procedures and multiplicity of appeals has introduced the elements of delay in the said Act. The quantum of fines prescribed in the Act has also ceased to be deterrent to the violators of the Act and the amount payable for the excess vacant land by the government is exceedingly low. For all these reasons, the ULCARA has not been able to meet the objectives of the legislation.

The need to amend the Act suitably is an express one. The poor performance prompted the government to appoint an inter-departmental Committee to examine the provisions of the Act and suggest suitable amendments.

Changing Thrust

THE recommendations made by the Inter-departmental Committee are still in the form of suggestions to the government, which, if accepted, are required to be incorporated in the ULCARA by way of an amendment to the Act. These recommendations have placed greater emphasis on development of vacant land, rather than acquiring more and more land. Moreover, the Act is proposed to be more lenient, allowing the individuals and companies to have more land to expand their business in urban areas. It is mainly with the view to meet the rising demand for the housing, on the one hand, and social equity, on the other, that the amendments have been suggested.

Among the important changes suggested is the proposal to limit the applicability of the Act to urban agglomerations with population upto 10 lakh only. This would bring down the number of cities to which this Act would apply to less than 20, as against 64 towns and cities covered at present on the basis of 1971 population figures. While the earlier classification covered all cities with over 3 lakh population, the proposed amendment classifies the cities in 3 categories—category 'A' covering urban agglomerations of more than 50 lakh population, category 'B' with 20 to 50 lakh and category 'C' having 10 to 20 lakh population as per 1991 census. Even the provision under which the State governments are empowered to cover towns upto 1 lakh population is proposed to be amended and the new limit of 5 lakh has been suggested for this purpose. These cities have been recommended to be called category 'D' cities.

The Committee also suggested certain changes in the ceiling limits existing in the Act. At present the Act provides for 500 sq. metres, 1000 sq. m, 1500 sq. m and 2000 sq. m of land for category A, B, C and D agglomerations, respectively. While the limits of ceiling for category 'A' and 'B' agglomerations have been retained, the same for category 'C' and 'D' are suggested to be raised to 2000 and 4000 sq. m, respectively. This would enable the individuals and companies to effectively meet the growing housing needs in the relatively smaller and growing cities. In case of the companies or firm engaged in industrial production, these limits are to be doubled. The Committee also suggested setting up of a Shelter and Urban Development Fund in every city, for funding low income housing in infrastructure. All the revenues, other than fines and penalties, would be credited to this Fund. The committee further suggested a development oriented name to the Act, suggesting it to be called "Urban Land (Ceiling and Reforms) Act".

Yet another proposal to hike the compensation rates has been welcomed by all. As against the existing rates of Rs 10 per sq. m in category 'A' and 'B' cities, and Rs 5 per sq. m in category 'C' and 'D' cities, the maximum amounts payable now are recommended to be Rs 250, Rs 125, Rs 50 and Rs 25 per sq. m, respectively, for the corresponding categories. The earlier limit of Rs 2 lakh is also proposed to be done away with and the amount is to be paid as per above proposal, without upper limit. Again, while as per the existing provisions, the land owner was required to file a statement of land, the proposals aim at empowering the competent authority on its own to prepare a statement on the basis of information available with him, in case the land owner failed to file the required statement under Section 6 of the Act.

A few other amendments have been proposed. The discretion of the government to allow the surplus land to be held by the owner on grounds of "public interest" or "undue hardship", is proposed to be replaced by an objective provision. The owner can, as per the suggested changes,

hold whole of his excess land if he pays 20 per cent of the market value of the land to the Shelter and Urban Development Fund or else 20 per cent of the land can be surrendered by him to the government free of cost, which would go to the Land Bank for the Urban Poor. The panel has also suggested creation of the office of Commissioner of Urban Land Ceiling and Reforms in each urban agglomeration/State. This office would work for developing the data base of all urban properties through citywide surveys. With a view to reducing the delays in finalising the excess vacant land, the number of appellate authority has been proposed to be reduced to one. The report further recommends that the sick industrial units may be allowed to dispose of their surplus land as per BIFR package, provided that they pay 10 per cent of the notified land value as contribution to the Shelter and Urban Development Fund.

Critique

THE Committee report is aimed at updating many rates and categories, making them realistic in today's context. It has also been described as an instrument for ensuring equitable distribution of urban land. But at the same time, the proposed amendments have also been described as inadequate by many. Administration of many parts of the Act has been left to the States concerned. The States concerned have the discretion of bringing the towns over 5 lakh population within the ambit of this Act. The current abuse of the provisions of the Act by the State government is, thus, likely to be perpetuated further.

The amendments proposed have also been described as half-way reliefs by many. While the proposal to create a Shelter and Urban Development Fund has been welcomed, the recommendation to link the levies for retaining the excess land to the current market value is subjective and may breed corruption. The issue of determining the market value is a tricky one and may be misused by many.

In absence of a Central Monitoring

Body or any similar mechanism, it would be extremely difficult for the government to ensure its proper implementation. The *suo moto* powers given to "the prescribed authority" may also be misused. Moreover, in absence of any time-frame within which the process is to be completed, the amended ULCARA may also continue to breed undue delays and indecision at various levels.

Notwithstanding the above shortcomings, the amendments proposed by the Inter-Departmental Committee have, to some extent, updated the ULCARA. After all holding more land was not an offence before enactment of ULCARA and persons affected have all the right to get adequate compensation. Creation of the Shelter Fund is also a bright spot among the amendments proposed. This would not only help the low income group population to get shelter, but would also go a long way in promoting the infrastructural developments in the cities. Enhancement of limit of cities in 4 new categories would also give relief to the process of housing development in smaller and medium towns across the country. Reduction of appellate channels, however, is a double-edged weapon. While it would expedite the process, it has also taken away a useful channel of appeal and resultant access to justice. Creation of a separate machinery in the form of Commissioner of urban ceiling for each city/State would be a welcome step, if at all this goes underway.

The plus points of the proposals can only be useful if they are first adopted by the government and then properly implemented by the State governments concerned. The government also needs to work out in detail the manner in which the Shelter and Urban Development Fund is to be utilised. Any laxity in this would not only result in misuse of these funds, but would also breed corrupt practices, endangering the very idea of urban land ceiling, inspite of the basic spirit of achieving socio-economic equity and systematic urban development in the country.

SPECIAL FEATURE

The Cult of Violence

Our country has the distinction of having achieved independence through the biggest non-violent movement in history. But the society today seems to revel in violence. Recent months have seen gruesome acts which hardly do credit to us as a nation. Take a look at the inventory of crimes in recent times: famous people are shot in broad daylight, a girl gang-raped for daring to express her love, hundreds of people killed in Kashmir and North-East. Accounts of murders, kidnappings and other violations make it to the first page of newspapers everyday. As we are benumbed by ghastly cruelty around us, we examine in this feature what makes us so violent and whether we are losing our unique identity. Is the legacy of non-violence dead?

HAPPENINGS in recent months seem to confirm the tendency towards violence. Some of the most gruesome crimes have been committed without fear or shame. Music magnate Gulshan Kumar was shot in Mumbai while social activist Sanjoy Ghose was kidnapped and killed in Assam. The first was killed because he did not pay the protection money demanded by gangsters, while Ghose attracted the ire of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) because he dared to work among the poor people of Assam for their upliftment.

Both Gulshan Kumar and Sanjoy Ghose were well-known victims of the violence that grips everyday life in India. Thousands of lesser known people today suffer the consequences of violence which seems to have become the new fashion. Whether this violence achieves anything is doubtful, but this does not prevent people trying to solve their problems by force and coercion. Often, it is the poor who are the victims of this mindless philosophy.

Women at Receiving End

THE gang-rape of a 19-year old girl in a village in Haryana's Nuh district exposes some of the harsh realities of life in the country. The girl had dared to marry a man against the wishes of her parents. She was attacked by a butcher's knife and gang-raped, with the village *pradhan* leading the rapists. This was not the first instance of such a crime—there may be thousands of such incidents which may not be reported in the media. And when the head of the village takes part in this shameless crime, it suggests that his act had societal sanction.

Young couples are often ostracised and murdered in rural India and the village head sanctions the crimes, showing that large parts of India still support barbaric medieval norms, where the writ of the modern State as we know it, simply does not exist. Women bear the brunt of violence, either induced from alcoholism or simply to put them down.

Non-violence seems to have become outdated in present-day India. The rise of the Naxalite movement and the large-scale violence in Assam seems to make it an unacceptable creed. Above all, society seems to accept this trend. Election Commissioner G.V.G. Krishnamurthy gave some shocking figures recently: nearly 700 out of 4,072 MLAs and 40 MPs have a criminal background. About 1,500 of the 13,952 candidates who contested the last general elections had records of murder, rape, dacoity, extortion or theft. While political parties seem to condone such shameful records among their cadres, the people too don't seem to bother too much and give votes to the criminals. When politics has been criminalised to such an extent, it is perhaps no wonder it is the day of the gangster in modern-day India.

Erosion of State Authority

THE rise in violence represents the erosion of the authority of the State. The government and its officers seem to have lost the respect of the people, given their strong nexus with criminals and the widespread corruption. Respect for the law has slowly vanished.

The government at many places exists only in name. In many States and at the Centre, the political leadership is visible only through populist measures, giving law and order the go-by. Children of politicians make a nuisance of themselves and throw their weight around. The gangster thus has a free hand.

There are other reasons for the rise in violence as well. Liberalisation has ushered in luxury goods which many people would like to own but lack the means to do so. Income disparities have widened. A whole class of people has been totally left out of the economic process and has continued to get impoverished. Landless labourers, marginal farmers and those living in the villages do not count in the new India. These people continue living in poverty and if they do come to cities, must work in menial jobs and live in *jhuggi* colonies full of filth and dirt. When they see unlimited prosperity around them, tensions result. Some people may then turn to crime because they have no other means of improving their lot. Even adolescents from prosperous households have indulged in violent crimes to be able to earn a little extra pocket money.

Judicial Inactivism

ALONG with changes in society is the collapse of the law dispensing agencies. Courts operate without a sense of time and cases are stretch beyond one's wildest

dreams. It is difficult to obtain convictions even against known criminals. Gangsters have made capital out of this and have gone about circumventing the law openly. For all its reputation of judicial activism, it is ironical that courts in India have not improved the judicial systems since independence.

This has given rise to a parallel system of justice provided by the underworld. Builders in Mumbai and elsewhere have frequently used the help of the mafia in getting things done quickly. Before long, the mafia started demanding protection money from its clients rather than simply provide services for a fee. When these payments were delayed, there was further violence.

To a great extent, frustration with the legal system has encouraged dependence on the mafia and even people taking the law into their own hands. For example, a rape victim prefers to suffer in silence rather than make a complaint because of fear of harassment. Rape cases, in any case, are notorious because few convictions have ever taken place. Those who can afford it, would surely take the help of the gangsters to seek justice if such a thing ever took place. Similarly, businessmen are forced to seek the help of gangsters to settle business disputes, since the legal system would take years to solve the problem.

There is an urgent need to change the legal system in the country to restore the faith of the people. If the legal system was quick and efficient, fewer people would seek the help of the underworld in solving disputes and there would consequently be less violence.

Growing Frustration

THERE is also growing frustration with the systems of governance. On the one hand we see growing poverty and destitution and, on the other, there is open loot of public funds meant for upliftment of the poor. No action is ever taken against the corrupt. While politicians are immune, all that is ever done against a corrupt bureaucrat or police officer is to transfer him. There is no attempt to improve the system.

Even the most patient of the people

would rebel after some time when they see the blatant injustice. It is very well to blame the system, but the system is bad because the people managing it are bad. What are the marginalised people to do? Very often, the frustration results in violent movements. It could result in a naxalite movement or it may even take the form of a separatist movement, where a certain group of people feel that they want to have a distinct entity so that their concerns are given due importance. Why should a government officer on transfer from somewhere be imposed on a community to make money for himself in the name of the people he is supposed to serve?

It is not surprising that in many States, violent movements have started. The North-East is virtually out of control, with violence erupting at regular intervals. The inability of the State to listen to genuine grievances of the people frequently results in ethnic killings, with no solution in sight. In Punjab and Kashmir, it is easy to blame the movements on a foreign country, but when these arise in States across the country, it is time to rethink on the policies.

Most movements arise because of an unresponsive administration and increasing frustration of the people with it. Their aspirations are not met. The people feel they are independent only in name and the strings of power are still held by an alien government. In many ways, the people of India have been let down.

This could have been handled if only the voice of the common man had been heard. But the armies of IAS officers and politicians have ignored the voice of poor people. Today, it is difficult to meet a district officer or even have him take action on the basis of a petition. The only language that the officers understand is the language of violence. So, whenever the Indian people want anything done, they go on strike and burn a few buses. In villages, they block traffic on a highway before they are given assurances of action. The people understand now that officers respond only if life is made uncomfortable for them.

In a way, then, the government has encouraged violence in society. We are moving away from civilised society where

things move through dialogue and discussion.

While condemning violence, perhaps it would be useful to remember that in many cases it is simply a cry of the people to be heard. Mahatma Gandhi was the only person who understood independence to mean self-rule. Successive governments have used it to mean suppressing the people.

Fragmented Society

THE Indian society is today fragmented and has several tensions within it. All these are contributory factors to the increasing trend of violence. Many things have to be done simultaneously if we are to get out of this terrible storm. Putting down violence with brute police force is not a long-term solution, what is needed instead is firm resolve to bring marginalised people into the mainstream. This can be done by giving them more voice in decisions that affect their lives. Poverty in rural India must be tackled so that large-scale migration to the cities can be checked.

Above all, there is need to control corruption in the country. This alienates well-meaning people and encourages a criminal-political nexus that exists in the country today. The police force has to be cleansed and honest officers rewarded. The judiciary too has a responsibility on its shoulders and should devise methods where the guilty are punished swiftly. The government has a responsibility to extradite underworld dons who are hiding in Dubai and other places and bring them to justice. We have reached a situation where they are becoming more and more powerful because the government is not serious about catching them.

If this is not done, society will deteriorate further and fall into the trap of violence. Most officials blame the system when things go wrong; it is high time that the leaders and the bureaucrats accept their responsibility of inflicting an unresponsive system on the people. Otherwise, it would not take long before violence creeps into their well-protected offices as well.

DEBATE; DISCUSSION

Can Corruption be Removed by Satyagraha?

For once, the President and the Prime Minister were seized of the same problem on Independence Day. The speeches of both on the 50th anniversary of freedom stressed that corruption had indeed become a very big issue in the country. The Prime Minister even suggested a satyagraha to weed out corruption.

While this may be a good idea, it has been met by a sullen dismay by the people. If the head of government is helpless, what can a common man do? Or is it just another meaningless slogan like garibi hatao? This month, we debate the issue which has become the number one talking point among Indians. If we do nothing about it, we may well move up from becoming the tenth most corrupt nation in the world to the first.

Mr A Recounting the achievements of the nation on completion of the 50th year of independence, both the President and the Prime Minister mentioned the most oppressive thing that pulled India down: corruption. It has indeed become a very big problem in India. From small jobs like getting a ration card or a driving licence to a big job like dealing with the income tax department, government officials accost you with their hands out, like little beggars in the street. For such a huge problem, the luminaries had a common solution: the President called for a social movement or national movement and the Prime Minister wanted the people to launch "a new kind of satyagraha". It seems that the government has virtually given up in this matter and that is why such suggestions are being made. There may be some merit in the suggestions, since everybody is corrupt in the system. A people's movement was able to throw out the British from the country; why

can it not do the same with corrupt officials? I think that if we all refused to pay bribes and were able to bear the hardship, this problem would be reduced to a very great extent. So the ball is in our court, really.

Mr B It is a very strange situation that the President and the Prime Minister, two of the most powerful men in the country, are pleading their helplessness and want the people to start a national movement. I want to ask you two basic questions: first, against whom should the satyagraha be, and second, what can a common man really do? I think it is very foolish to ask the common man to take up a task which essentially belongs to the government. A common man can merely complain. The complaint is usually never looked into, since the seniors too have their fingers in the pie. In most cases, the investigating agencies ask for proof—how is anyone to gather evidence in a transaction which is essentially verbal? It is the government, on the other hand, which has the power of investigating. So why don't the investigating agencies do their job? Ironically, the same PM who wants us to launch a satyagraha also has the dubious record of transferring the CBI chief when crucial investigations were under progress and also did nothing when the Bihar government should have been dismissed. The message is clear: the government will shield the corrupt while the Indian people may get involved in a movement so that they do not have time to question the actions of the government. This is a very dishonest approach and needs to be condemned.

Mr C I agree with you. Politicians often make slogans to keep the junta pre-occupied. We have seen the garibi hatao campaign in the past which did not do anything to remove poverty but it kept the people busy for a while. I am afraid that this satyagraha business is also an insincere attempt of the wily politician to show that he is sincere while actually not being so. And look at the impractical advice being doled out to us, that we should start a national movement. Does this mean that we should take the law in our own hands and mete out justice to the corrupt? How is one to do that, when the government shields those very people? Even if we complain about the corrupt officials, no action is ever taken. Enquiries drag on, if they are constituted at all. The corrupt officials, on the other hand, continue to harass the common man by not doing their job unless bribes are paid. If they come to know that someone has complained about them, they will only make life more difficult for the complainant. The PM says that we should be ready to bear hardships and refuse to pay bribes. It is all very well to give such advice from his office. Has he cared to see the amount of hardship that the common man is bearing anyway? Why should he bear more hardships while the political class and the bureaucracy live like parasites and suck the nation's vitality?

Mr C Let us not dismiss the PM's suggestion off-hand. I think he is a well meaning individual and unlike the others who just accepted things, he has dared to say something about the widespread problem. Let us look at the

reasons why such a suggestion has come about. It has been floated because the government is unable to fight corruption because of lengthy court procedures, the insistence of documentary evidence and the clout of the corrupt. While honest officers can be transferred, the corrupt can afford to pay bribes to have the orders issued in their favour. Then, there really cannot be any real evidence of corruption, except for checking the assets of an official's family. Further, there can be no action against politicians because of weak governments. Under such a situation, the PM is right when he says that the people should come forward and start a movement against corruption. After all, if all of us stopped paying bribes and complain about those who demand money from us, things would certainly improve. We need to have a Gandhian approach and launch a movement of non-co-operation with those officials who demand bribes from us. If people organised *dharnas* outside and force the work of the administration to stop, it will be forced to look at why people are protesting.

Mr D It is easy to say such things but difficult to implement them. What you are saying is that people should coerce the administration to act. Does it not amount to taking the law in our own hands? How will the administration respond? It will call the police and throw us in prison. So the problem cannot be solved by the people, but by the government itself. Today, the people are disgusted and do not want sermons on corruption. They look for a lead. I will take a guarantee that if any PM takes on corruption head-on and takes strong action against corrupt officials, he will be able to get popular support. Instead, we have seen that the leadership is just not willing to take the bull by the horns. Gujral had the option of taking a strong stand and dismissing the Bihar government, for example, but he has chosen to dilly-dally. Before him, Gowda had the option of dismissing ministers whose names figured in

various scams but he chose to hide behind court orders. When the leadership is rotten, who is to lead by example?

Mr E You are right when you say that the problem can be solved only by the government. We have to see, for instance, why corruption has arisen in the first place. It has grown because of outdated laws and needless controls. By following laws that require permission for small things, the government is encouraging corruption. Further, the government has to send the message that it is serious. It should remove all the unnecessary controls and also speed up investigations. There are so many pending cases which stretch on without any action being taken. Government action should be swift whenever cases of corruption are reported. Only then will people acquire confidence and come forward to report such things. Unless action is swift, the corrupt will always feel encouraged and have no fear. Unfortunately, swift action has never been taken by any government.

Mr A You cannot, however, doubt the sincerity of the President and the PM. A special cell has been formed in the PMO and directives have been issued to various departments for streamlining investigations. It can be argued that these are simply bureaucratic responses to a problem which cannot be controlled by bureaucratic methods. That is why I agree with you that swift action is what is required. One reason that corruption has grown in the country is due to the fact that cases take so long. The courts are guilty to the extent of granting too much time to the corrupt. Rather than indulge in activism in areas outside its jurisdiction, the courts should streamline themselves so that justice is imparted quickly. This will give a lesson to other officers and they will be forced to be honest. Unless all actions are taken simultaneously, fighting corruption will not be an easy task.

Mr B Your suggestions are very good, but you have left out a very important area and that is of political corruption. If politicians are not clean, every small employee feels it is his right to make money too. But nothing is done to fight political corruption. Even the PM does not have the guts to dismiss corrupt Chief Ministers in spite of clear evidence, nor can he take action on any minister if found corrupt. This has happened in the past as ministers have gone scot free. So how can we say that the PM is clear about his intentions? Further, how can a common man go on *satyagraha* against a minister? Political corruption can only be fought by the government and any leader who does so will endear himself to the people.

Mr C We have had a very good discussion and a number of ideas have been put forward. Most of us feel that the proposal of the PM is not serious enough because the common man is not empowered to do anything. Even his complaints are not heeded. So how can he launch a *satyagraha*? Mahatma Gandhi's method was successful in forcing a reluctant foreign power to leave the country as they were rendered helpless. A *satyagraha* will make our present government helpless too, if all citizens started non-cooperation with it. Whose purpose will that solve? Certainly not the nation's. It is the government which should be serious. At the same time, needless controls should be removed. Archaic laws must be repealed so that people are free to do what they want. When power of the government servants is reduced, they will not be in a position to demand bribes. As far as political corruption is concerned, the PM should be strong and take action. In any case, Gujral is the PM for a very short while. He should be decisive and take firm action to show the world what a strong PM can do. Giving impractical suggestions like a national movement to fight corruption is hardly mature or sensible.

CAREER

Internet Opens Many New Careers

The rapid growth of the Internet has opened up many avenues for service providers. There are about 70,000 people who either have Internet connections in India or can access it through the Ernet and they are growing at an exponential rate. While most users may still be trying to understand the Internet and using it for education, e-mail or entertainment, a tremendous opportunity exists to expand businesses. With more awareness, people will want to put up their home pages, provide e-mail facilities much like the telephone booths that are in vogue today. Or they will want to use it more creatively. A growth like this will yield many employment opportunities and will require trained people. Once the government allows it to expand on its own, many people will find jobs through the Internet or make careers by providing services. This feature describes the different opportunities that are arising from this global marketplace.

Few people expected the Internet to have grown like it has. It is today a vast network of people connected through computers and telephone lines, communicating with each other, offering products and services or using it for education and entertainment. With connections increasing by the day and all major companies having set up their home pages, it has also become a vast marketplace where everything is available. One can use it to expand business beyond national boundaries or use it as a global resource of information.

Either way, it has created a demand for people who have the skills to provide services such as designing web sites, helping people to put up their resumes or other information, maintain servers and web sites and so on. The opportunities are actually limitless and are bound to grow as awareness catches on. Already, Indian companies

are putting up their pages on the Internet and professionals are advertising their services. Newspapers have even offered services where matrimonials and resumes can be put up in order to get global response.

The advantage of being on the Net is that one is not limited by physical constraints—people from all over the world can access your page and if the service you are providing is worthwhile, you will never be short of customers. Being on the Net is also much cheaper than advertising in international papers and magazines and that is why it has caught on rapidly.

Understanding the Internet: The Internet is a vast network of computers connected through telephone lines. People have e-mail addresses which work just like post boxes. One can communicate to anyone in the world with an e-mail address in a matter of seconds. The information on the Internet is a free resource and anyone can access it. The World Wide Web, or Web for short, refers to the vast network of computers. Anyone can create a website on it, which means an address holding some pages of information. Anyone in the world can access a website. Companies use websites to display their products and services, often with the help of graphics and videos. There are also shopping arcades, called cybermalls, on which one can inspect products and even place orders for them. In India, the Internet is catching on but if the VSNL makes it easier, lakhs of people will gain access. Already, many companies have got their websites and individuals are using it to send e-mail to friends all over the world. One major advantage of the Internet is that it is cheap and one can communicate with anyone at the cost of a local telephone call. Another

is that communication is instantaneous. Since it is a growing field, the demand for trained personnel is likely to grow. As the number of users grow, trained people will be needed for many kinds of Internet services.

Avenues on the Net: Some of the avenues that have opened up with the Internet are:

1. Website and home pages designer
2. Providing services to students and job seekers to put up their resumes
3. Providing e-mail or surfing services
4. Opening an Internet café where people can access it
5. Providing server for hosting pages
6. Opening or expanding an export business

Designing home pages is an exciting option. Anyone with an artistic mind can become a designer. The success of the site depends on how many people feel attracted to it so it has to be really creative. If you have a degree in fine arts or are a graphics designer, this could well be a career option. A formal degree is, however, not required and it really depends on how good you are. Of course a knowledge of computers and multimedia is essential. Since web pages use text, photographs, video and audio, a knowledge of all the packages used for designing home pages is required. One also needs to know languages like Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), Java and Perl, which are used to design websites.

To start your career as a home page designer, the hardware that you need is a personal computer with a multimedia kit, photoediting software, web-site manager

software and an Internet connection. It may be a good idea to work for a while with any of the on-line service providers to get to know the technology and the different options available. It is not enough to be a graphic designer only but a computer expert as well. Web page designing is not limited to placing some pictures and text on a screen but 3D animation and video or audio must be incorporated. If the site is not interesting, few people will feel compelled to visit it.

Creation of websites is not limited to companies only. People can have their own website created, which may include information about their work, hobbies and can even put up their resume and hope to get job offers. Companies, on the other hand, can put up commercial websites which give information about the company and its products. A designer charges per page of developing a site and later for site management and updating. It is important to remember that the designer has to be aware of the practices all over the world as people from all over the world access Internet. If it is not world class, the site would be all but useless.

Alternately, one can set up a business to provide services to people such as providing e-mail facilities, putting up their resumes on the Internet, or provide a facility for people who do not have a connection to surf the net, like video game parlours of yesterday. Cafes that provide such services have already opened in some cities in India and reportedly are doing good business. Another option would be to provide e-mail facility where people can send and receive mail just like the telephone and fax providers. Since e-mail is cheap, it is fast replacing traditional methods of communication.

The Internet is also a boon for people who want to set up an export house. One could set up a shopping mall with all types of products ranging from handicrafts to jewellery. Of course what you have to offer must be unique and of good quality to interest the international buyer.

Where to study: Some computer institutes provide training for the Internet and many more are expected to jump in the fray. Before enrolling, one must decide

which field one wants to get into and look for specific training. There is no point doing a generalised computer training course and hope to make a career in Internet. You need specialised training depending on your needs.

Some of the study options are NIIT and Arena. The GNIIT course prepares one for a career in Internet. It is a two-year course and costs Rs 50,000. Short-term courses ranging from a few days to a few weeks are available ranging from Rs 5-10,000. The NT Server course at NIIT costs about Rs 10,000 for a duration of 5 days. If you want to make a career in designing of web pages, you can join the 14-week programme at Arena. This costs Rs 6,500. Of course if you just need to have your presence on the Web, you need not do a designing course and can have your pages made by someone else. So your priorities have to be worked out before you take up a course.

You will gain much knowledge by surfing on the Net, so make sure you have a connection. Also, make sure you keep abreast of all the new technologies. With the world changing fast, a professional has to know what is happening, or he will be obsolete in no time.

Prospects: There is much money to be made in Internet careers. A web page designer would charge over Rs 1 lakh for developing a site which is about 15 pages long. Smaller sites may be cheaper than that. Many companies hire their own designers to develop and maintain sites, constantly upgrading the information on them. Others work on a free-lance basis. The hours can be flexible and one can work from one's own home.

If one wants to start an Internet café or a small shop to provide services of e-mail and surfing, the field is really wide open as the trend is catching on. An international call is quite expensive and people will find it cheaper if they can send an e-mail message to their friends and relatives in distant countries at the fraction of the cost. It is not too far-fetched to assume that Internet service providers may mushroom in India just as telephone service providers mushroomed a few years back.

The right time to set up a business or take training is now. The Internet is poised for a very big leap and is growing at a very fast rate. Because of its high growth, there is already a shortage of good, trained people. If you can get on the bandwagon now, you will be in time to reap the rewards when the boom occurs. At present Internet access is controlled by the VSNL but in times to come, it may become free as in other countries and that will certainly result in phenomenal growth. Since it is a growing field, the prospects for Internet trained people are limitless.

Government Policy: Internet access is limited at present because of government myopia. Because of the ostrich-like attitude of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd (VSNL) and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Internet access has not spread as in other countries. But it is doubtful that it can be controlled for long. If connections become easily available, lakhs of people may get on the Net. The importance of the Web can well be assessed by the fact that about Rs 4,320 crore worth of goods and services were sold through it last year. More than 875,000 companies have registered Web domain names over the past five years and the Internet population worldwide is growing in leaps and bounds. Clearly, if VSNL wishes to protect its monopolistic advantages, it will end up harming the nation. The Telecom Commission has announced that private Internet Service Providers (ISPs) would be permitted to get into business but the initiatives have been vague and ill-informed so far. This will change in times to come, or people will find ways to bypass the VSNL, as has happened in other technologies. Anyone wishing to make a career is thus poised to make it big in the future.

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IAS (MAINS) SPECIAL

General Studies

Solved Questions from the Previous Years' General Studies Papers

Q. 1. Briefly mention the factors which have promoted concentration of powers in the Centre in India, and discuss the response of the States to this tendency. (About 250 words.)

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1986)

Ans. 1. During the past about five decades, there has been a tendency towards centralisation of political power at the Centre, with the States becoming weaker in comparison. The following are some of the factors which, over the years, have promoted concentration of power at the Centre.

(i) **Legislative Powers:** The Constitution prescribes three lists in the VIIth Schedule, which also lay down the powers of the Union and States to legislate on various subjects. While the Union list has 99 subjects over which only the Union has the power to legislate, the State list comprising of 61 items, authorise the States to legislate on these subjects.

The third list, called the concurrent list, gives powers to both Union and the States to legislate on 52 items and in case of overlapping, pre-dominance has been given to the Union government legislature. Residuary powers are also vested with the Union government under exceptional circumstances. The Union legislature, as per prescribed procedures, may also legislate on the subjects on the State list. Under emergency, the Union Parliament may legislate on the items on the State list.

(ii) **Executive Powers:** While the Union and State governments have executive powers with respect to own laws, treaties and agreements, the Union government enjoys certain additional powers to give directions to the State governments. Under normal circumstances, the Union government may issue directions to comply with the provisions of Central laws and rules. During emergency, all the State powers are assumed by the executive. Power of the President to dismiss a State government on the basis of the report of the Governor also contributes to the concentration of powers at the Centre. During the financial emergency, Union government may issue directions to the State governments. Provision of all India Service also strengthens the Centre's position.

(iii) **Financial Powers:** It is mainly due to the majority of financial powers vested in the Union government that the concentration of power has taken place in the recent years. The

Union government appoints Finance Commission every five years for distribution of proceeds of Central taxes among the States and between the Union and the States. The rise of Planning Commission as an agency to dole out developmental finances has further weakened the position of the States vis-a-vis the Union government.

Response of the States:

Response of the States on the growing tendency of centralisation of power has been on the expected lines. Most of the States have opposed any moves of the Centre to further centralise the power. States have always opposed the powers of the Centre to dismiss a State government and the recent decision of all the Chief Ministers to modify the said Article of the Constitution is a further proof. The States have, thus, been demanding the implementation of the Sarkaria Commission Report in toto. The Centre has always defended its position on two issues of national defence and the welfare activities to be undertaken. Moreover, even the federation as provided for in the Constitution aims at providing a stronger Centre. On these

lines, the demands of the States have been turned down by the Centre.

Q. 2. "It is the duty of the majority to instill confidence in the minority. Conversely, the minorities must also look beyond narrow sectarian interests and work for the larger goal of a real secular society in India." Evaluate in the light of spirit of Indian Constitution and the Indian Experience. (About 250 words).

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1984)

Ans. 2. In India the political parties have defined the term 'Secularism' to suit their own philosophies. The constitutional meaning of Secularism means that the State has no religion of its own. All the religions must be allowed to flourish and there should be no restrictions by the State on their propagation. While the BJP defines secularism as equal treatment of all the religions and not favourable treatment to a particular religious minority and the so-called policy of appeasement followed by the govern-

This feature has been specially prepared to help the aspiring candidates of Civil Services (Mains) examination have an idea of type of questions that are asked in the General Studies paper and the way these questions are to be answered. This issue like the previous issue incorporates questions from previous papers. November '97 issue will carry expected questions. Readers are invited to send us any specific topic or question that they would like us to include in this feature.

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ment has thus been decried by this party, various other political parties, however, visualise the meaning of secularism as protecting the rights of religious minorities, more particularly the Muslims.

Sir Ivor Jennings has criticised the Indian Constitution for having ignored the interests of minorities. It is mainly on the basis of the philosophy of communal representation perpetuated by the British during their rule. The deletion of this obnoxious provision may have prompted most of the Englishmen to feel the way Sir Jennings felt. While abolition of discrimination was one of the objectives of the Constitution, the framers of Indian Constitution have inserted a few provisions for safeguarding the interest of the minority communities. On the one hand the religious and cultural rights of the minorities have been protected and religious freedom assured by the Fundamental Rights to all the citizens, the minorities have also been allowed facilities for instructions in mother tongue, on the other. Article 350B of the Constitution also provides for the appointment of one Special Officer for linguistic minorities to investigate all matters related to the safeguards provided for the linguistic minorities under the Constitution.

Notwithstanding the above provisions in the Indian Constitution to safeguard the interests of minorities, it is the centuries old social bonds and fraternity in the Indian society that holds the key to Indian secularism and safeguard of the interests of the minorities. It was the British attempt to divide the Indian society on religious lines that attracted reaction from Indians, who promptly decided to do away with communal representation, as it was against the historic socio-religious values and practices.

No constitutional or legal provisions can safeguard the interests of religious and linguistic minorities, unless the society itself is prepared to do that. It is the duty of the majority community to instill confidence in the minorities. Sporadic instances of violence should not be branded as communal clashes. The duty on part of the majority community is, thus enormous to ensure the Indian secularism. The moments of rage gradually recede, yielding place to the social bonds and Indian magnanimity of accommodation. The examples of momentary communal frenzies on Ayodhya episode, Mumbai bomb blasts and 1984 riots are still vivid in our minds.

At the same time, it is also imperative on part of the minorities to consider them a part of integrated India and the national mainstream. Their religious and linguistic interests should come after the national integration. Their narrow and sectarian interests should be readily sacrificed in the favour of national causes by them. Such a feeling among the minorities would result in confidence-building and automatic implementation of the safeguards provided in the statute.

Q. 3. Answer the following (in about 150 words each)

(a) Discuss the outstanding tribal uprising against the British Rule during the nineteenth century.

(b) What were the contributions of the moderates in the formative stage of the Indian National Congress?

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1994)

Ans. 3. (a) Throughout the British Rule in India, most of the sections of Indian society revolted against the British and Indian tribals were no exception. The tribals who lived in forests and hills resisted the British policy of commercialisation of agriculture, imposing revenue on the forests and exploitation of the forest wealth for the benefit of the urban population. During the nineteenth century, the following tribal uprisings took place against the English rule.

(i) In 1829, Khasis, the primitive tribals of Assam, revolted against the decision of the British to construct a road through the lands belonging to the Khasi Chiefs. Not only this, the British tried to force the labour for construction of the said road. Under the leadership of Bar Manik and Tirut Singh, a revolt to throw out the British of Assam began in May 1829. British crushed the revolt brutally and by 1833 almost all the Chiefs were either defeated or surrendered to the British.

(ii) Kuki Tribals revolted against the British by attacking the British territories in the year of 1829, 1844 and 1849 but could not withstand their brutal force.

(iii) The revolt of Khasis prompted another tribe called Singho's to revolt in 1830, but they too were defeated. They again revolted in 1839 but were defeated again. Nagas also revolted but could not succeed.

(iv) The Khonds resisted the British attempt to engage them as forced labourers and also to change their practices of head-hunting and infanticide. They revolted in 1846 and 1855 but had to submit before the might of the British.

(v) The revolt of Santhals of Bihar in 1855-56 was against their exploitation by the money-lenders and the failure of the government to protect their interests. The revolt was suppressed by February 1856 brutally and extreme inhuman atrocities were inflicted on Santhals.

(vi) Kolarians of Chhota Nagpur revolted against the British attempt to annex their lands. In 1827, the British burnt their several villages and killed many persons, forcing Kolarians and their subjects, Hos to submit to them. Although the Mundas also joined Hos but the revolt was brutally suppressed by military operations.

(vii) In 1899-1900, Birsā Munda revolted against the British in south of Ranchi. He made Mundas revolt against their exploitation. Mundas treated Birsā as God. He instigated the Mundas against the Christians, the British, the Zamindars and the money lenders. He was captured and imprisoned, and later died in prison.

(viii) Various other tribal uprisings also took place against the British. These included revolt by Niakda forest tribe of Gujarat, Koya Chiefs, Konda Chiefs and Bhils of Rajasthan. The main grievance of the tribal people was the encroachment by the British and other people from the plains into their social, cultural and economic life and activities. But none of the revolts succeeded, as the traditional weapons and methods of the tribals could not match the modern weapons and tactics used by the British.

Ans. 3. (b) After the establishment of Indian National Congress in 1885 by Sir A.O. Hume, the Congress was mainly under

the control of so-called moderates. The early aims of the moderate leaders were the fusion of all elements into one National goal and gradual regeneration of social, political, moral and mental values and consolidation of union between England and India. With a view to adopt and achieve these goals they adopted the techniques of constitutional agitation and attempted to arouse the political consciousness and national spirit among the Indians. They also aimed at arousing sympathy among the minds of the British towards the genuine grievances of the poor Indians. Hence their main aim and effort was to convert British Public opinion in favour of their demands.

The contribution of the moderates was more of emotional in nature. Hence their achievements did not produce any immediate gains but were of long-term in nature and were instrumental in arousing political and national awakening. They also trained the Indians in the art of political work, ideas on democracy and nationalism. The moderates also to some extent could expose the evils of political and economic British imperialism. They created the foundations of vigorous nationalist movement in the coming years.

The moderates, their techniques and achievements have been criticised by many scholars. It is said that the moderates failed to achieve anything substantial. It is also said that they accepted the supremacy of the British and never wanted to turn them out of the country. Even the extremists in the Indian National Congress criticised them. But going by the prevailing conditions and situation, it would be wrong to presume that the achievements of moderates were not substantial. The nationalist movement which later caught the imagination of Indian masses was the result of strong foundation laid by the moderates. The Britishers were so deeply rooted and the Indians were so poorly organised that it was not possible to achieve more than this.

Q. 4. Are there good reasons behind the suggestion that in new programme of economic liberalisation, India should go slow in the matter of 'exit policy'? (About 250 words)

(Civ. Serv. (Mn) Exam 1992)

Ans. 4. The New Economic Policy (NEP) adopted by the government more than 6 years ago has aimed at curing many a malady from the Indian economy. One of the features of the NEP was the industrial policy which among other things, also aimed at revamping the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). Despite their social objectives, the performance of PSUs is now adjudged by their performance on the financial front. It was realised that the PSUs had some inherent inefficiencies and were grossly overstaffed. With a view to ensure that the surplus staff was shed by the PSUs without their being rendered absolutely unemployed, a forward-looking policy called the 'exit policy' was prepared by the government.

The so-called "exit policy" had several characteristics. Firstly, a National Renewal Fund (NRF) was set up to pay the ex-gratia to the surplus staff, to create skills and train the staff to enable them getting an equivalent or better job in the private sector, and also for the purpose of social and economic rehabilitation of the

staff. In addition, a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) was introduced, popularly called the golden handshake scheme, under which, in addition to the payment of usual retirement benefits, the optees were to get a handsome ex-gratia payment. The conditions were that the optees should have either 10 years of service or minimum 40 years of age. A few PSUs at the Centre as well as at the States adopted this scheme, who were assisted for payment of ex-gratia through the NRF. Many private organisations also formulated their programmes on the same lines to have their VRS. The effort was to cut the "dead wood".

There are, however, certain reasons which call for soft peddling on this issue. The first argument is that under the current scenario where the unemployment has assumed serious dimensions, the attempt to prune the services in the PSUs as well as in the private sector is retrograde. One of the main initial objectives of having the PSUs was the employment generation, which would certainly be not served due to the VRS or exit policy. Secondly, it is not wise to shed skilful staff available to the government. Some staff skilled manpower would then be engaged by the private sector, in turn giving more competition to the PSUs themselves. Further, the amount spent on the golden handshake could be used for employing more capital equipment, so that the surplus staff could be gainfully employed, resulting in increase in production levels. Moreover, gradual dismantling of the public sector would result in no competition to the private sector and more exploitation and profiteering by the private sector.

The above arguments, however, may not hold good when viewed in totality of the situation. The inefficient employment cannot be allowed to perpetuate at the expense of the State exchequer. Moreover, the PSUs have had their hey-days. The modern and liberalised times call for a market-driven economy where market forces of demand and supply would determine the availability or otherwise of the labour force. For skilled displaced labour there is no dearth of jobs while for the inefficient, there should be no place in the jobs.

Q. 5. Answer the following questions. (Answer to each question should be in about 25 words)

- Distinguish between Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross National Product (GNP).
- Give full names of (i) FAO (ii) FOB (iii) GATT.
- Describe the main objective of DPAP.
- State the difference between the Council of Ministers and the Cabinet.
- The writ of mandamus will not be granted against certain persons. Who are they?
- Distinguish between the All India Services and Central Services.
- Distinguish between Annual Financial Statement and Annual Finance Bill.
- What is heavy water? What is it used for?
- What is the advantage of putting a satellite in the geosynchronous orbit?

(j) What is MRI? What is it used for?

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1992)

Ans. 5. (a) Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the sum total of all the goods and services produced in an economy over a given period of time, generally one year. Gross National Product (GNP), on the other hand, takes into account net balance of trade i.e. the effect of imports and exports. In other words, GNP is GDP—(Exports-Imports).

(b) FAO stands for Food and Agriculture Organisation, FOB for Free on Board and GATT for General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

(c) DPAP stands for Drought Prone Area Programme. The objective of DPAP is to promote more productive dry land agriculture by better soil and moisture conservation, more scientific use of water resources, afforestation and livestock development through development of fodder and pasture resource and in the long run, to restore the ecological balance.

(d) Indian Constitution uses the term "Council of Ministers" and not Cabinet. Technically, both Council of Ministers and Cabinet should include the Cabinet Ministers, but in the commonly used terminology, Cabinet means all the Cabinet Ministers, while the Council of Ministers denotes all Ministers including the Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers.

(e) The writ of mandamus cannot be granted against the following persons:

(i) The President or the Governor of a State for exercise of powers and duties vested in him, or for doing any act purporting to be done by him in performance of these powers and duties.

(ii) It does not lie against a private individual or body in the matter of contravention of any provision of the Constitution or a statute or a statutory instrument, except in the cases where the State is in collusion with some private party.

(f) The Central Services refer to certain services under the Union, maintained on All India basis for service throughout the country like Indian Audit and Accounts Service, Indian Foreign Service, Indian Revenue Services etc. All India Services, on the other hand, are included in the category provided under Article 312 of the Constitution. All India Services are regulated by the Acts passed in the Parliament. These include Indian Administrative Service and Indian Police Service.

(g) Annual Financial Statement is the statement of estimated receipt and expenditures of the government of India for an ensuing year, which is caused to be laid before both the Houses of the Parliament. This is also called "Budget". Annual Finance Bill on the other hand, follows the Annual Financial Statement, which is introduced as a Money Bill for appropriation out of the Consolidated Fund of India. This Bill gives effect and approval to the expected expenditure during the said financial year.

(h) Heavy water is the moderator and coolant used in Pressurised Heavy Water Nuclear Reactors, which uses natural uranium as fuel. Heavy water cuts the heavy investment to be made for producing enriched uranium.

(i) Whenever any satellite is put in geosynchronous orbit, its speed of orbit synchronises with the orbit as well as rotation of

the earth. This enables to achieve exactly the same angle of antennas sending or receiving signals through the satellite.

(f) MRI stands for Magnetic Resonance Imaging, which gives excellent soft tissue characterisation without the risk of radiation and Positive Emission Tomography for studying the metabolic activity of various tissues. This is a simple diagnostic technique using computers.

Q. 6. Answer the following (answer to each question may be in about 150 words).

(a) Describe briefly the different phases of India's nuclear energy programme.

(b) What are high temperature superconductors? Describe their important applications.

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1994)

Ans. 6. (a) India's nuclear energy programme was initiated in the year 1948 with the setting up of Atomic Energy Commission, which was supplemented by the establishment of the Department of Atomic Energy in 1954. Setting up of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Uranium Corporation of India Ltd, Atomic Minerals division, Indian Rare Earths Ltd, Power Reactor Fuel Reprocessing Division etc were some additional steps in this direction.

Nuclear Power Programme in India is planned in three phases. In the first phase, Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors are used, in which natural Uranium is used as a fuel to produce electricity, alongwith plutonium fuel with 96 per cent unused uranium (U238). In this form of reactors, heavy water is used as a moderator and coolant, cutting enormously the cost of enriching the natural uranium. Second phase use the Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs). Fast Breeder Reactors use plutonium as fuel to generate electricity and more plutonium from U238 kept as blanket. It also produces U233 fuel from thorium used as blanket material. Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research at Kalpakkam near Chennai has developed indigenous Liquid Metal Cooled Fast Breeder Reactor (LMCFBR) technology using Sodium Coolant. Fast Breeder Test Reactor is the irradiation facility for the development of FBR fuel cycle and to gain experience in design, construction and operation of LMCFBR. In the third phase of nuclear energy programme U233 will be used as fuel and thorium as blanket producing more U233 fuel than the fuel consumed in the fast and thermal reactors.

Ans. 6. (b) Superconductors are considered to be a technological revolution. All the conductors of heat and electricity result in wastage of some power in transmission and the temperatures are known to be one factor contributing to carrier resistance. If the temperatures are lowered to the absolute zero (-273°C) or zero degree Kelvin (K), the resistance is much lower. But superconductivity can be achieved only upto the temperature of 4.2K, the point at which the helium gas liquefies. To achieve this, superconductivity devices have to be immersed in liquid helium in tightly sealed and heavily insulated containers. High temperature superconductors are the superconductors which do not resist the current even at appreciably high temperatures.

Till 1973, the scientists could not raise the superconductivity temperature beyond 23K. Further, it was discovered by Chu of Houston University, that by pressurising superconductivity material, the transition temperatures could be raised to 52K. Even in India, scientists of National Physical Laboratory claim to have achieved the temperature superconductivity under laboratory conditions. Room temperature conductivity is not very far away from the humanity, it appears.

Once realised, high temperature superconductivity would be a great achievement. Besides saving enormous amounts of electric energy, the use of superconductivity would also be used in running the bullet trains with several hundred kilometres of speed on magnetic cushions, having high-powered small size electrical cars, having miniature computers and having more powerful and safer nuclear reactors. It would also help the mankind in developing easy diagnostic aids of extra-dimensions which would be very cheap.

Q. 7. It is being suggested that the Commercial Banks in India should reduce their holdings of non-performing assets. Does it mean that the farmer should abandon social priorities? (About 250 words).

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1994)

Ans. 7. One of the main objectives of bank nationalisation was to check the concentration of economic powers in a few hands. At the same time, the subsidiary objectives was to ensure adequate financing of priority and social banking. Low return and high risk fields of development in the rural areas including self-employment, lending to the primary sector and lending for government-sponsored development programmes were not getting funding upto the desired level, which objective was largely achieved by the bank nationalisation.

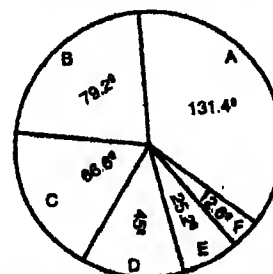
During the past about a decade, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has specified some revised norms for judging the performance of the public sector banks. Their performance is now judged more closely on account of financial achievements. Till recently, almost all the public sector banks were indulging in the malpractice of wrong reporting of their financial performance, as a result higher profits were shown on paper. For example, the entire accrued interest was shown as profit, which even included the assets which were already non-yielding or non-performing. The RBI thus issued revised guidelines recently which, among other things, include the instruction regarding reducing the non-performing asset. A non-performing asset is that particular asset, the interest in whose respect is not being recovered and the repayment of principal amount is also irregular. This simple definition of the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) indicate that most of the NPAs are in the priority and social sector lending, which are largely sponsored by the government agencies.

It is feared that the recent instructions to reduce the NPA holdings may adversely affect the financing of the priority sector. In an attempt to keep the NPAs to the minimum, the banks may try to discourage the priority sector lending, notwithstanding the instructions from the government. As most of the NPAs are in the

priority sector, this fear may not be totally baseless.

But it does not mean that the banks may or can abandon the social priorities. Social equity and development is the resolve of the government policy and cannot be overlooked at least by the public sector banks. Banks are the instruments to implement the social priorities. The socialistic pattern of society adopted by the country cannot be done away with, and needs adequate financial support. It is the RBI and the government which have to ensure that the priority lending does take place in the desired direction. Although the NPAs have been asked to be reduced, there is no reason to believe that it is only the increase in NPAs that has resulted in increase in losses. There are many other factors that are responsible for the losses. Hence it is wrong to presume that reduction in NPAs would result in losing sight of the social objectives, more so when there has been no decline in the targets for priority sector lending percentages.

Q. 8. (a) The following is a pie diagram representing the values of export six commodities A, B, C, D, E & F in a country. If the total value of exports is Rs 9600 crore, calculate the values of exports of the commodities A, B, C, D, E & F respectively.



(b) The average marks of 600 students in an examination is 42. Among them the average marks of the top 150 students is 76, while that of the last 250 students is 28. What is the average marks of the remaining 200 students?

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1993)

Ans. 8. (a) The problem can be solved as under:

$$\text{Value of exports of A} = \frac{131.4}{360} \times 9600 = 3504 \text{ crore}$$

$$\text{Value of exports of B} = \frac{79.2}{360} \times 9600 = 2112 \text{ crore}$$

$$\text{Value of export of C} = \frac{66.6}{360} \times 9600 = 1776 \text{ crore}$$

$$\text{Value of export of D} = \frac{45}{360} \times 9600 = 1200 \text{ crore}$$

$$\text{Value of export of E} = \frac{25.2}{360} \times 9600 = 672 \text{ crore}$$

$$\text{Value of exports of F} = \frac{12.6}{360} \times 9600 = 336 \text{ core}$$

Ans. 8. (b)

$$\text{Average marks of 600 students in exam} = 42$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total marks obtained by 600 students} &= 600 \times 42 \\ &= 25,200 \text{ marks} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Average marks of top 150 students} = 76$$

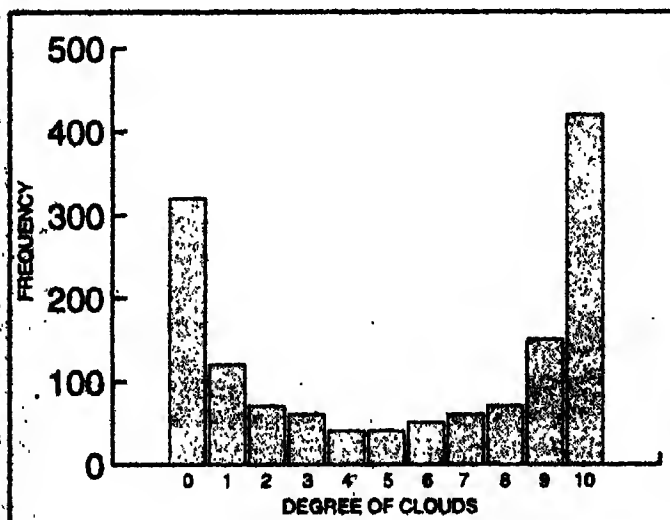
Total marks of top 150 students = 150×76
 = 11,400 marks
 Average marks of last 250 students = 28
 Total marks of last 250 students = $250 \times 28 = 7000$ marks
 \therefore Total marks obtained by remaining 200 students
 = $25,200 - (11,400 + 7000)$
 = 6800
 Average marks obtained by remaining 200 students
 = $6800 \div 200 = 34$ marks

Q. 9. (a) The following data is concerned with the annual turnover in lakhs of rupees of a manufacturing company:

Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Turnover	342	380	385	420	480

Obtain the average annual of increase in turnover and forecast the turnover for 1991.

(b) A region has varying degrees of cloudiness in the month of July. The degree of cloudiness is rated on an 11 point scale from 0 to 10; 0 denoting clear skies and 10 denoting completely overcast skies. The histogram below gives the classification of 1400 observations on the degree of cloudiness.



Prepare a table showing the frequency distribution of degrees of cloudiness in the region.

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1991)

Ans. 9. (a) Total increase in annual turn-over in 4 years
 = $(480 - 342) \div 4 = 138 \div 4 = 34.5$

Average Annual increase in turnover = Rs 34.5 lakh.

Following the annual average increase in turnover for the last 4 years, the forecast could be $480 + 34.5 =$ Rs 514.5 lakh. (The forecast can also be found out by using more complicated techniques of business forecasting like Regression, Time Series Analysis, Interpolation etc. But only a simple method using the annual average is used here for the purpose of simplicity).

Ans. 9. (b) The Frequency distribution of degrees of cloudiness can be depicted as under:

Degree of cloudiness for the month of July in a Region.

Degree of cloudiness	No of observations
0	320
1	120
2	70
3	60
4	40
5	40
6	50
7	60
8	70
9	150
10	420
Total:	1400

The following comments can be made on the nature of cloudiness of the region on the basis of above observations:

(i) Degree of 10 denotes completely overcast sky and 420 observations out of 1400 mean that 30% of the times the sky remained completely overcast.

(ii) 320 observations out of 1400 have recorded 0 degree of cloudiness, which also means that 22.85 per cent of the times, the sky was absolutely clear of the clouds in the Region.

(iii) 0 to 1 degree cloudiness was observed 440 times ($320+120$) which means that 31.42 per cent of times the sky was almost clear.

(iv) 9 to 10 degrees of cloudiness was observed 570 times ($150+420$) which means that 40.71 per cent of times the sky was almost fully overcast.

(v) For the remaining 26.87 per cent of times 3 to 8 degree of cloudiness was achieved, and for this duration of time partially cloudy sky observed.

Q. 10. In an assembly election, out of one hundred seats 52 were won by party A, 26 by party B and 22 by party C. But out of total number of valid votes these parties secured 46%, 26% and 28% votes respectively. How do you explain this phenomenon?

(Civil Services (Main) Exam 1989)

Ans. 10. Under the Indian conditions where there are many parties contesting elections, the number of seats won may not be directly proportionate to the percentage of votes polled, due to the following reasons.

(i) Due to multi-cornered contest the winning candidate need not have 50 per cent or more votes. Hence the party securing maximum number of seats may not have secured 50 per cent of the total votes.

(ii) The party winning 26 seats got 26 per cent votes and the one getting 22 seats got more percentage of votes i.e. 28. This could be possible due to two factors—multi-cornered contests and the number of seats contested. If a party contests more number of seats even if it wins lesser no. of seats, its percentage of votes could be higher. Conversely, a party contesting on lesser seats and even if it wins more number of seats, may have got lesser percentage of votes.

Hence due to above reasons, the number of seats secured may not be proportional to the percentage of votes secured.

Descriptive Questions

India: After fifty years of Independence

Q. How would you assess—India, after fifty years of Independence? Substantiate your views on the subject based on facts, experiences and knowledge.

Ans. On the eve of independence, addressing the new rulers, Gandhiji had said: "August 15 is the day of our trial, beware of power; power corrupts. From today you have to wear a crown of thorns. Do not let yourself be swayed by pomp and pageantry. Remember you are in office to serve the poor in India's villages." His warning and fears: "Now we are independent but we are still the same. If we are not careful we shall prove the saying that changing one's colour does not change one's nature....It will be a very strange thing if the vices of the alien rulers persist while their virtues leave with them." Though Gandhiji did not live long to see how the new rulers heeded his advice, his warning or prophecy about the nature and nuances of developments in various walks of Indian life are not quite in harmony with his dreams and desires.

Perhaps things did not move along the lines Gandhiji had suggested and strived for, because he was much ahead of times and thinking of those who took the reins of governance in their hands. Today, in the fiftieth year of India's independence, we dare not doubt the bona-fides of the leaders like Nehru, Patel, Azad and the like but the way things started drifting and deviating from the 'goals of independence' after their departure from the political scene, are there for all to see. Hopes have yielded to despair for the common man. For most of those living below the poverty line, the new dispensation has replaced the old one. The vic-

tics of exploitation and discrimination, find nothing but fifty distressing years of sterile politics stagnant economy and a diminishing cultural identity—all gradually merging in a menacing cloud of crime, corruption and chaos.

Considering that we started in 1947 almost from scratch, there is reason to rejoice as well in what we have achieved. We have an impressive network of transport (rail and road) and tele-communications; we have a vast industrial infrastructure and a buffer stock of food-grains (thanks to the Green Revolution). We have a scientific establishment that is as distinguished as anywhere else in the world. Whereas democracy failed to strike roots in most Asian and African countries, we have a healthy (though noisy) parliamentary democracy and to cap it all, we have an independent judiciary barring a few aberrations here and there.

To sum up, in spite of the amazing and bewildering successes in the fields of science and technology, farms and factories, the paradox of poverty amidst plenty still stares us in the face. Destitution and destruction amidst development and progress, and pavement deaths amidst five-star pageantry, seem to be an inseparable part of Indian life—rather Indian polity—in the fiftieth year of Independence. Who will resolve this contradiction is a million dollar question.

Privatisation of Social Services

Q. "Privatisation of social services" is the only solution to meet the basic requirements of the people. Give two arguments in favour and two against the proposition.

Arguments in favour of the proposition

1. One need not delve deep into the

mess and mire all around that red-tapism, indifference and non-accountability on the part of officials and others handling basic social services, prevail and pounce. Too much of nationalisation—rather bureaucratisation of social services like power, transport, drinking water, sanitation, disposal of garbage, industrial effluents and wastage and like and the resultant state of inefficiency, arrogance and apathy on the part of those who should matter and mean business—calls for immediate reversal of populist policies so that the health of the polity is not allowed to suffer further. In order to get out of the shambles in which we find the social services today, the only way out is to privatise them and see the difference in empty promises of nationalisation and potential performance of privatisation.

2. There is no denying the fact that we have had too much of State control over some of the essential services but regrettably the output and out-come of massive investments have failed to show corresponding results. What to talk of advanced and developed countries of the West, even the countries of much smaller size and resources than ours, have done remarkably well, as far as the rendering of basic social services are concerned, simply because they were not obsessed with the mania of nationalisation or too much State interference in these services. Even after five decades of independence, we have not been able to provide drinking water and electricity to all, liveable conditions, both in rural and urban areas, to a majority of our citizens. By now we should realise that nationalisation without national character is a mirage that always fails to make miracles in real life.

Arguments against the proposition

1. The advocates of the proposition

should know that if nationalisation of social services has resulted in indifference on the part of officialdom, privatisation may prove worse than the malady it is going to cure. The impression that privatisation of basic social services is the panacea for most of our socio-economic ills is based on illustrations from such small countries as are not heterogeneous like ours, nor are they plagued by too much cynicism and pessimism. Since the private sector is always motivated by profits, it is like living in a fool's paradise to expect love's labour from it in the service of the country. The need-based essentials of a poor country like India cannot be handed over to the greed-based inclinations of the private sectors.

2. If in the opinion of some thinking persons, things have gone from bad to worse in matters of providing adequate and timely social services to the people, the distortions and deviations need to be corrected and not put under the wraps or handed over to quacks and undeserving hands, whose only motive in life is to have their pound of flesh under all circumstances. If at all something drastic and meaningful is to be done, it should be done at the official levels where all those persons engaged in the dispensation of social services should be held responsible and accountable for all acts of omission and commission.

Curbing crimes in trains

Q. Suggest three effective measures to curb/check the growing crimes in trains. Say how the measures suggested by you are going to be really effective.

Ans. 'Precaution is better than cure' should guide the perceptions and proclivities of the travelling public, especially in those areas that have earned notoriety, for one reason or the other. Since people by temperament and nature are simple and gullible, they are easily taken in by the glib tongues of those who pose themselves to be their friends, well-wishers and, above all, their fortune-tellers. The travelling public should avoid to accept any eatables from strangers in the trains. Who knows such eatables may contain some intoxicant, by consuming which they may become unconscious and lose all their valuables to

the cheats, swindlers and thieves.

On the part of the railways, the entry of unauthorised vendors should be strictly banned in the running trains. Railway police should depute some of their personnel in plain clothes, both on platforms as well as in trains, to keep a close watch on the movements of suspicious characters.

Both the railway police and the local police should remain in touch with each other so that they are well posted with the antics and tactics of criminals operating at different levels. An excellent rapport between the two law-enforcing agencies can prove a decisive deterrent for those who make crime their prime concern and calculation. Nexus, if any, between the criminals and some black sheep in the police establishment, should be broken with an iron hand. If the impression that 'travelling in trains in India is not safe' is allowed to go by design or default, its ramifications can be too harmful to be visualised now

Women and household chores

Q. What will happen if women all over the world refuse to perform household chores (routine tasks) in future. Give three important consequences of such a situation.

Ans. If the women refuse to perform household chores from tomorrow, the heavens will not fall on earth but the unprecedented development will upset the apple-cart in every hearth and home. The new situation will be like a bolt from the blue when right from the 'morning tea to the late night supper' will not be prepared by the women-folk and men will find themselves in a state of 'suspended animation'. It needs no reiteration or elaboration that women have been performing household (domestic) duties with much devotion and dedication. The new situation will unfold an entirely unexpected and unusual scenario all round that one may not relish.

In majority of the cases it is the men who hold the fort outside the home whereas women manage the affairs on the home-front. In the changed circumstances men will continue to go to their places of work and find the time fleeting as usual. But the women whose time and energies

are happily spent in looking after the routine jobs of home-cum-family will find time hanging heavy on them. Moreover, when the men-folk, after they return from their work-place, find everything at sixes and sevens and the women-folk completely unconcerned about their daily needs of bread and butter, the homes will become painful places of ire and irritation.

Children of all age groups will be deprived of the natural care and concern of mothers who used to take pride in rearing their families under all circumstances. In the changed scenario, tender love, happiness and harmony will yield place to blank looks, tensions and taunts. Nobody will be a gainer under the new dispensation because traditions, habits and mutual trust built over the centuries will vanish into the thin air. Households will become open arenas of wordy duels, jarring jibes and horrid havens of unrest.

After refusing or declining to undertake domestic duties as was their wont till today, if women seek work outside the confines of their homes, it will be almost impossible to provide work to all able-bodied women in the world. If they demand to exchange places and positions with men, even that proposition may not work with ease and elasticity. The upsetting of the established order will result in nothing but trauma, turmoil and turbulence for all—males and females.

TOPICAL ESSAYS

(For candidates appearing in I.A.S., P.C.S. & other higher grade Exams.)

by
A Panel of Experts

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(Publishers)

(Publishing Division of Chandika Press Limited)
126, Industrial Area, CHANDIGARH

MANAGEMENT

Test Taking Techniques for Management Exams

The entrance exams conducted by management institutes are not difficult and many people report that they can easily solve the problems when at home. Yet, during the exam, they are unable to do so. What is required is a mastery of test-taking techniques, which are simple things that can be followed to increase speed and accuracy. In this feature we describe some of the things that can be done by candidates applying for management exams as well as for other similar exams. Try out these things when you are doing mock tests and you will see that they help in enhancing scores. Of course the strategy may vary from test to test since institutes conduct tests for varying level of difficulty. This feature will help develop your own strategy which, we hope, will see you through many difficult tests of this nature.

To the uninitiated management entrance exams are a nightmare. There may be more than 180 questions to attempt and the time limit is two hours, so it is virtually impossible to do all of them in the given time. Even though the questions are objective type, one has to attempt well above 120 questions to be able to get a call from a good institute. This means that a person has less than a minute to do each sum. In 45 seconds or so, one has to read the sum, make a quick calculation and tick the right answer. For many students, it takes more than a minute just to read the sum.

The solution is not to rush through the questions like an express train, making wild guesses or ticking away through intuition. Many students pull out all stops and blunder along and are not able to make a serious attempt. The strategy has to lie somewhere else and one has to find a way to develop speed

without hurrying.

Speed and Accuracy

Most tests look for quick thinking, consisting of speed and accuracy. The first step is to develop accuracy. This calls for a thorough understanding of the basics. In Mathematics it means practice in basic techniques, in English an understanding of grammatical rules and a carefully built vocabulary, in Comprehension an insight into the kind of questions that can be asked and the traps to avoid. It is important to do as many exercises as possible at this stage.

The important thing is *not to panic*. How does one control the rising feeling of helplessness if one finds that one's speed is slower than one's neighbour? Let's start with the beginning. First, learn to attempt the paper intelligently. When you are given the paper, take a quick look at the section to be attempted. Spend about a minute or so to identify the questions that you think can be done easily. Attempt those questions first. You will save quite a bit of time by doing the easy questions rather than get stuck in the speed breakers. Do not look at neighbours because that will give you a sense of complacency if your neighbour is slower and might cause you to panic if he is faster. By attempting a number of mock tests, you can get over such tendencies.

If you still panic during the exam, you can do a simple exercise. Close your eyes, meditate for a while and relax, erasing all negative thoughts. This should be done in less than one minute. Get back to the paper and try a fresh approach, leaving the question that is causing trouble

Avoiding Speedbreakers

Most tests will have some questions considered to be "speed breakers". These are questions that require long calculations and which simply cannot be done in one minute. Some candidates fall into the trap and will try to solve that question, forgetting that time is ticking past. The idea is to avoid such sums and do only those which can be done fast. If you have done a number of exercises from different books, you will realise which kind of questions you have to avoid.

One habit which is formed from school is to do an exercise slowly, attempting all questions serially. This habit is best got rid of. Doing questions serially will almost certainly slow you down. Instead, one has to look for sums which must be avoided. The paper must be done selectively and questions must be done on a pick-and-choose method. Remember, the number of questions are so many that they cannot possibly be done in the given time. Anyone who attempts to do the complete paper is simply wasting time.

It is easy to identify difficult passages in the Comprehension section. Attempt those passages which are about a subject familiar to you. If there are figures in the passage, it is usually easy to answer. There may be some smaller passages which can be done easily and in the end, choose the passage which seems unfamiliar. A careful selection of the passages will result in your attempting most of the section. Speed is important in certain tests but in others, smaller passages are asked with adequate time to attempt. For certain institutes, therefore, one must develop speed reading. Extra reading helps and the student is

advised to read whatever he can. Even a reading of bestsellers increases speed in reading.

In other sections, identifying speed-breakers may not be as easy. In Mathematics, certain sums may seem very easy but when attempted, may be tricky. Only a constant practice will help identify such sums. In the Data Interpretation section, it is advisable to do data sufficiency questions first and those graphs which are easy to understand.

Test Taking Strategies

Over a period of time and after doing several full-length tests, you should be able to zero in on your strategy. After each test, it is important to analyse mistakes either of calculation or in choice of questions. Make a note of them in a diary and before sitting for the next test, review the points. Usually, there is a time-limit per section and the idea is to attempt as many questions as one can in half-an-hour. Sticking to the time-limit is, thus, of utmost importance.

Two rather helpful techniques are: a) working backwards from the choices, and b) learning approximation techniques. The first is really the key to solve management entrance tests. Many sums would take very long if attempted by the proper method. But if one were to substitute the choices, one could quickly arrive at the correct answer. In others, if one works out an equation, it may not be necessary to solve it but try to see which choice best satisfies the condition. As a rule, quadratic equations are best not solved and so are sums requiring exponentials. Choices make the solutions much easier.

Approximation techniques must be mastered carefully, since wide approximations will only give wrong answers. Where long calculations are involved, getting to the rough answer always helps but one must remember to check the answer obtained. Sometimes, if the choices are too close, one must be able to figure out quickly whether the approximate answer obtained should be increased or decreased and by how much. Many students are able to solve sums very fast by estimating the answer rather than solving exactly.

Another area in which you can increase your attempts is the General Knowledge section. This is increasingly being asked by many institutes. A constant reading of national and international affairs as well as Business GK will help you answer questions in no time at all. A regular reading of the *Competition Master* helps GK in all these areas. The time saved in this section can be well invested in other sections either by attempting a few more questions or by revising the attempts to spot mistakes.

Finally, it is important to remember that management entrance tests are aptitude tests. If you have the aptitude, you will do well. If you are artistically inclined or if your tastes lie elsewhere, possibly you are made out for a different career. While scores can be increased with practice, building aptitude may well be impossible.

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ADMISSION ALERT

The Competition Master's Guide to Opportunities

This feature alerts our readers about forthcoming examinations and opportunities. Institutes should send us information well in advance to be included here. Readers are advised to assess their own suitability and that of the institute before applying—this feature is not a recommendation of any course or institute

Communications

1 PG Degree Course in Communication (2 years)—Eligibility: Graduates with minimum 50% marks. Written test: September 21, 1997. Apply to: Manipal Institute of Communication, New Udayavani Building, Press Corner, Manipal—576 119 with a DD for Rs 100 and a s a s e with Rs 14 stamps

2 PG Programme in Communications (2 years)—Eligibility: Graduation. Written test: CAT on December 14. Last date: November 10, 1997. Apply to: Admissions Office, Mudra Institute of Communications, Shela, Ahmedabad—380 058 with a DD for Rs 600. Also apply to CAT

Computer

Bachelor in Computer Application (BCA) (3 years)—Last Date: November 15, 1997. Apply to: Buddha Ascent of Technology, A-15, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, Saidulazaib Village, New Delhi—110 030 with a DD for Rs 60

Distance Learning

1 PG Diploma in Business Finance (3 years)—Eligibility: Graduation. Selection Criteria: Past Academic Record. Last date: October 20, 1997. Apply to: Indian Institute of Finance, PO Box 8486, Ashok Vihar-II, Delhi—110 052 with a DD for Rs 500

2 Master's in Ecology and Environment & Environmental Communication (2 years)—Last date: November 15, 1997. Apply to: Indian Institute of Ecology and Environment, A-15, Paryavaran Complex Saidulazaib Village, Saket—Maidangarhi Road, New Delhi—110 030 with a MO for Rs 30

Management

1 PG Management Programme (2 years)—Eligibility: Graduation. Apply to: Centre for Management Training and Research, E-44, Industrial Area Phase VIII, SAS Nagar (Mohali)—160 057 with a DD for Rs 100.

2 PG Diploma in Management (2 years)—Eligibility: Graduation with minimum 50% marks. Written test: January 4, 1998 conducted by XLRI, Jamshedpur. Last date: December 15, 1997. For application form, send a request by registered post to Admissions Office, Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar—751 013 with a DD for Rs 500. There is one

admission test for both XLRI, Jamshedpur, and XIM, Bhubaneswar.

3 PG Programme in Management—Eligibility: Graduation with minimum 50% marks. Written test: CAT on December 14, 1997. Last date: December 19, 1997. Apply to: Administrative Officer (Admissions), Management Development Institute, Post Box No. 60, Mehrauli Road, Sukhrali, Gurgaon—122 001 with a DD for Rs 500. Also apply to CAT

4 Common Admission Test (CAT) for 6 IIMs—Eligibility: Graduation. Last date: October 13, 1997. Forms available at SBI branches on payment of Rs 800. Forms also available under exceptional circumstances from: Executive Assistant Admissions, IIM Calcutta, Joka, Diamond Harbour Road, 24 Parganas (South)—743 512 with a DD for Rs 850

5 PG Diploma in Management—Eligibility: Graduation with minimum 50% marks. Written test: CAT on December 14, 1997. Apply to: Admissions Office, Goa Institute of Management, Ribandar, Goa—403 006 with a DD for Rs 500. Also apply to CAT

6 Master in Business Management (2 years)—Eligibility: Graduation with minimum 2 years full-time work experience, minimum age: 22 years. Written test: December 7, 1997 or a GMAT score above 600. For application forms, send two photographs, attested copies of certificates and a non-refundable DD for Rs 3,500 to Coordinator, Asian Institute of Management Alumni Assn, Ready money Terrace, 167 Dr Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai—400 018.

7 PG Programme in Management (2 years)—Eligibility: Graduation in any professional course. Written test: CAT on December 14. Last date: December 15, 1997. Apply to: Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management (IISWBM), Management House, College Square West, Calcutta—700 073 with a DD for Rs 370. Also apply to CAT

8 Certificate courses in Marketing, Computers, Personnel (1 year)—Eligibility: Graduation with minimum 45% marks. Interview on September 19-21. Apply to: Director, Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Management and Research, Block A-4 Paschim Vihar, Rohtak Road, New Delhi—110 063 with a DD for Rs 200

9 PG Diploma in Management (2 years, residential)—Eligibility: Graduation with minimum 50% marks. Written test: CAT on December 14. Last date: January 15, 1998. Apply to: Admissions Officer, Nirma Institute of Management, Chharodi, Sarkhej Gandhinagar Highway, Post: Ognaj, Ahmedabad—382 421 with a DD for Rs 400.

Question Box

Q. I would like to become an air hostess. Which institutes impart training for this? Is there any job security in this line?

—*Shefali Saxena, Ghaziabad (UP)*

A. To become an air hostess, you must have a pleasing personality and lots of stamina. Fluency in English, Hindi and other languages is desirable. To apply you must be under 25 years of age, single and measure 157.5 cm in height without shoes. It is preferable to have normal vision without glasses and the minimum uncorrected vision should be 6/24 in each eye. A graduate degree or a diploma in hotel management is required. You can either join a course in hotel management or look for training in travel-related institutes. As far as job security is concerned, the closure of certain private airlines has resulted in many people being laid off. You can, however, join the national airlines or even the foreign ones, where the job security would be higher.

Q. I want to get into films but have no idea about how and where to begin. Please guide me.

—*Rajendra Prasad, Sahibganj (Bihar)*

A. A career in films is full of glamour and high rewards, but is often a risky one. If you want to get into films, first decide which area you want to get into, and acquire training for the same. Some institutes offering film-related careers are featured in our 'Admission Alert' column. For details about such careers, please see our 'careers' feature in COMPETITION MASTER, January 1997 issue.

Q. What kind of topics are usually asked in group discussions?

—*Mani Karan Singhal, Moga (Punjab)*

A. Topics asked in group discussions could be economic, social or a case discussion. Technical topics are not asked as a

student's communication ability is being tested. You have to scan the newspapers and be aware of current topics and form your own opinions about them. The subject of Group Discussion along with expected topics was published in our March 1997 issue.

Q. What are the job prospects after doing MSW?

—*Yea Basu, Burdwan*

A. People with a professional degree in social work (MSW) can look forward to careers in educational, medical, psychiatric, community, labour and correctional social work. Many Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) are operating in these fields and they require professionals. So the job prospects are good. However, many of these NGOs are family affairs and do not offer a long-term or congenial work atmosphere. Growth would be limited. But if you are looking for a challenging task and the satisfaction of doing something for others, doing MSW is certainly a viable option.

Q. From where can I do B.Ed. by correspondence?

—*Sarita Joshi, Lucknow (UP)*

A. A number of universities offer B.Ed. by correspondence these days. Look for their advertisements in the newspapers. One option for you would be to apply to Annamalai University. The B.Ed. course offered by this University is very popular.

Q. I would like to do a course in garment manufacturing and textile machinery. From where can I get information on this?

—*Mayank Jain, Ludhiana (Punjab)*

A. You can write to: SASMIRA, Sasmira Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400 025. This association offers diplomas in man-made textiles and fibre manufacture.

Q. I would like to appear for bank clerical and other exams. There is no good coaching institute here, so I have to prepare on my own. Please suggest different books for different exams.

—*Lakshmi Narayan, Vishakhapatnam (AP)*

A. Many students look for books for different competitive exams. Most exams are, however, similar. What you need is a good grounding in maths, reasoning, English and general knowledge. You need to buy one book which covers all of these. This will be sufficient for all exams and you do not need to buy different books for the exams you are appearing in. Two good books are *Test of Reasoning and General Knowledge Refresher* published by Khanna Brothers. Also practice regularly the question papers that are published in COMPETITION MASTER. This will give you a good grounding for all tests.

Q. I have taken up a vocational course in computers in my class 12. What can I do in future to make a good career.

—*K. Srinivas, Gulbarga (Karnataka)*

A. As you are interested in computers, a good option would be to pursue a career in this field. After class 12, a Bachelors' course in Computer Application (BCA) would be open for you. Private institutes too offer a graduate programme in computers and you can consider that as well. You would be much better off pursuing a course in your chosen line than doing a B.Com. or B.A.

Q. Due to some unfortunate happenings, I could not get a good result in graduation. Now, everybody discourages me about preparing for competitive exams. Please help me decide about my future path.

—*Subrat Acharya, Bhubaneswar (Orissa)*

A. The graduation result is usually

very important for applicants of competitive exams But if you feel you are a good student and can put in a lot of effort, you can certainly consider the competitive exams Analyse what went wrong during graduation and make sure the mistake is not repeated. At the same time, consider some vocational courses too so that you have something to fall back upon in case you do not succeed Don't get discouraged by the attitude of others and do what you think is best, depending on your ability to put in hard work

Q. What is credit rating? What is its significance?

—Santanu Saha, Dibrugarh (Assam)

A. Credit rating assesses the credit worthiness of a firm or individual and serves as an indication to a prospective investor about the safety of investing in such a firm In India credit rating agencies have developed indices ranging from 'maximum security' to 'high risk' These give indication to the investor, as the indices are based on assets, liabilities, income and whether the investments are secured But these indices can often be manipulated, as the recent CRB scam showed The investor must therefore satisfy himself about the company and not rely on credit ratings only

Q. Please suggest a book on social and economic problems for competitive exams.

—Vinod Kumar Jubbal (H P)

A. Though there are many books available in the market, your interest will be best served by reading current magazines like the COMPETITION MASTER, in which all the latest social and economic issues are discussed These will help you know about the latest thinking on the subject and also develop your long-term understanding, which books will not do In competitive exams, it is your understanding and knowledge that will come in useful

Q. I want to be a complete professional and earn minimum Rs 25,000 a month. I am doing my CA and CS, a course in computers as well as a course in typing. What else should I do?

—Hanuman Agarwal, Calcutta

A. To be a complete professional, you have to be focussed in your approach rather than take up whatever that comes to your mind By doing so, you will only be a jack of all trades and master of none In these days of super-specialisation, what you are doing can hardly be called a wise approach You should instead take up seriously that career which interests you the most Doing CA or CS are very good options, provided they are done seriously Your dabbling in computers and typing will hardly help you towards your goal Our advice, therefore, is to get focussed and become a good professional than attempt to do everything under the sun A good salary is earned through capability and not by the number of diplomas you have



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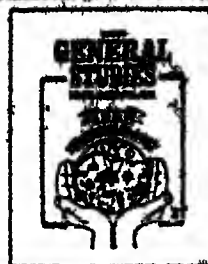
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Questions on Social and Economic Problems

Q. Agricultural taxation is a much debated issue. Give arguments For and Against the increase in taxes on agriculture.

Ans. *Agricultural taxation covers various direct and indirect taxes. Direct taxes include land revenue, agricultural income taxation, cesses and surcharges on agricultural crops, development levies and the like. Indirect taxes cover the taxation of agricultural inputs like water, use of electric and diesel pumps, fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals etc.*

Arguments For increasing Agricultural Taxation

(a) **Inter-sectoral Equity:** A major portion of tax burden of developing our economy is borne by non-agricultural sectors e.g., agriculture contributed 56.5% of GDP at factor cost in 1950-51, 32.8% in 1990-91. It has been argued that it should bear a proportionate burden in the tax revenue of the government. Even in the case of State revenue, a similar picture prevails. Agricultural income tax contributes only marginally to the State revenue. As a percentage of national income from agriculture, direct taxes on agriculture have been quite low and steadily falling with a continuous increase in agricultural productivity and income.

(b) **Revenue Collection:** Another reason for increasing agricultural taxation is the fact that the government needs huge resources for development effort. Agriculture is the biggest contributor to our national income and is expected to contribute its share in raising the necessary resources for economic development.

(c) **Potential:** Various estimates have shown that there is a lot of potential of direct agricultural taxation to the State revenues. Once tapped, these taxes are likely

to become an important and buoyant source of income to the States.

Arguments Against increasing tax

The case for increasing tax burden on agriculture is not flawless. There are a number of arguments that point out why we should not increase taxes.

(a) Our agriculture is extremely underdeveloped, with a vast growth and productivity potential which can be realized through added investment in it. Assuming that agriculture generates an economic surplus, it would not be wrong to say that agriculture should be given an opportunity to plough it back into its own activities.

(b) The phenomenon of tax concessions and subsidies is quite widespread in our country. Industry, for example, enjoys a variety of exemptions, rebate and tax reliefs. This is true for small-scale, tiny, cottage and other village industries. Special economic incentives are also enjoyed by exporters because exports are needed to pay for imports. On similar grounds, one can say that agriculture feeds both the people and industries. It has been pointed out that throughout the world (including India), productivity in agriculture has grown at a rate slower than that in the rest of the economy. For this reason, it is said that agriculture should be subsidized rather than taxed.

(c) India faces immense poverty and we need to provide cheap food to the poor. Providing subsidized agricultural inputs and tax concessions helps the authorities in maintaining lower procurement prices for agricultural products. If such facilities are withdrawn, agricultural prices received by farmers would have to increase. As a result, the consumers would suffer.

By and large, there is no debate about the fact that a rational structure of agricul-

tural taxation, including a tax on agricultural income is needed to check evasion of tax on non-agricultural income. Taxing agricultural inputs like fertilizers, electric pump sets, etc, however, should not be taken as an alternative to taxing agricultural income. These are only indirect taxes which go to form a part of the cost of production of agricultural commodities and stand on a different footing.

Q. Should Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) be closed down completely? Give arguments For and Against the rationale of having PSUs in the current economic scenario?

Ans. *Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are well dispersed into different economic fields in the economy and have always thought to be indispensable to the economy. However, in recent times, it has been said that the public sector can play a useful role only in a limited sphere and should vacate a number of fields in favour of market-guided private sector.*

The following arguments can be given for and against the rationale of letting the PSUs occupy a dominant position in the economy.

Arguments Against PSUs

There are many problems that the PSUs face. Due to these, people have pointed out the need for doing away with these enterprises. The lacunas are:

(a) **Lack of clear cut objectives:** In many cases, PSUs are not clear about the objectives they have to fulfil. At times, a PSU can be expected to pursue a number of objectives which could be contradictory and mutually exclusive. In such situations, the enterprise cannot be expected to achieve efficiency with respect to all of them.

(b) **Pricing Policy:** The price policy adopted by an enterprise may be designed to subsidise the consumer of its goods or

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- If you can understand English when others speak, but you are not sure of correct way to write or speak English. Or, if you sometimes make mistakes or get confused when speaking English.
- If you have used grammar or spoken English books to learn English, but did not get success.
- If you are a student, teacher, professor, doctor, CA, ICWA, CS, MBA, engineer, technician, scientist, musician, secretary, phone operator, bank officer, clerk, businessman.
- If you are highly motivated to learn simple and powerful English easily and quickly.

I Was Weak in English

I was born in Rajasthan where people are weak in English. I studied in government non-English medium schools. So, I was also weak in English.

On my way to Pilani to join B.E. at Chirawa railway station, I met one P.V. Reddy from Andhra Pradesh who was also going to Pilani to join B.E.

I started speaking in Hindi. Mr Reddy said "I do not know Hindi". It was a surprise and shock for me that everyone did not know Hindi. I had never talked in English before and I was not confident of talking in English. So, I said "I do not know English".

My Struggle to Learn English

In Pilani, in the first semester I was a topper with 10 out of 10 grade points, but I was not confident in English. So, I worried about my weak English. I bought many books, guides, dictionaries, newspapers.

I worked hard, but improvement was very slow. For example, I took one month to read my first novel R. K. Narayan's "The Guide" because I had to search so many words in the dictionary.

I even thought of dropping one semester, sitting at home, and learning only English. That time I used to think "Why nobody develops a research-based course to teach good simple English for non-English medium people like me? And someday I'll try".

My Dream Comes True

I continued to work hard. And finally I improved English and became a successful engineer/author in America. And, then I returned to India. Today, I am happy to offer you this course in English—my second dream has come true.

My first dream was to teach students "how to study and how to use more talent power" so get success in exams and competitions. That course has changed thousands and thousands of lives in the last few years. I am more proud of my research and contribution in India than my success in USA.

Our New Research

In English, there are many ways to say anything. Some ways are easy and some are difficult and confusing. We did research to find which are easy ways and which are difficult ways for people from non-English medium. In this process, we also discovered that some of the world's best magazines and books use the simple & powerful ways of writing English. This was an unexpected surprise discovery for our research team.

For example, we found that part of Reader's Digest uses simple & powerful ways of writing (Because that magazine is for English speaking countries, some of the vocabulary is difficult for non-English people).

We developed this new course only for people like you who studied in non-English medium. We believe this is the first and only such course in the world.

Author's Bio-Data

- B.E. BITS Pilani M.Tech IIT Kharagpur NTSE scholar Rank 5 Raj School Board
- World famous author. I published 3 computer books in USA including a best selling book costing \$27.95
- Expert Computers Mind Power Study Techniques
- My first job as an engineer paid only Rs. 1000 per MONTH. Just 7 years later I earned 50 dollars per HOUR in USA as computer expert and writer.
- At the peak of success I returned to India to do something in our own country. Now I spend my full time as a scientist to do research in mind power.
- I also learnt French Sanskrit Karate Breaking wooden board by hand many Meditations etc.
- Was a member of Society for Accelerated Learning & Teaching USA.



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Use Bapna's English Course for 31 days and if your English does not improve greatly, simply send it back on 32nd day by Regd Post A/D, and I will send your money (minus Rs 40 processing charge). You be the judge, no questions asked.

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If you can understand this article, you can surely understand my course. And greatly benefit from it. Our belief and experience show that teaching English through simple English is better than teaching to translate. Why? Because it helps students to learn to think in English.

- The complete course has 5 parts for easy learning:
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 - Part 2: Important and Helpful Usage
 - Part 3: How to Write in a Powerful, Effective, and Result-Oriented Way
 - Part 4: Advanced Topics
 - Part 5: Mini Spelling Dictionary

Part 3 is so easy and powerful that, it is worth more than the full price for the complete course.

Some of the other topics in the course are:

- Two short-cuts to powerful English
- Learn to use these helpful words
- How to write letters
- How to enhance meaning
- How to remember spellings and increase vocabulary
- Common usage, etc.

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You may know that I am an expert in the fields of Mind Power, Study Techniques, and Computers. I have used this knowledge to make the English course easy to learn and easy to remember for you.

You begin to improve on the very first day you get this course. You learn simple and powerful English in two steps:

- Step 1: Study for 1 hour per day. You can complete it in 23 to 40 days.
- Step 2: For the next 2 months, revise it for 2 hours per week. After that, for the next 2 months, revise it for 1 hour per week. In this way, your improvement will become permanent.

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- "Good and unique course. I was average in English. Now I can write letters in simple English." — Akshay Sharma, AP
- "I want to thank you for this valuable English course. Now I can write & speak English much better than before." — Bhavesh Anand M. Noida, MH

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service even when the overall economic policy of the country does not dictate so. This problem gets aggravated by the constant intervention of the government. Some enterprises are forced to procure their inputs from specified sources only. The authorities also intervene in matters of wage rates and prices of inputs and outputs.

(c) **Top Heavy Management** PSUs are burdened with inefficient and expensive managements. Appointments to top positions are not always made on grounds of merit and efficiency only. The top managers do not have any personal stake in ensuring the success of the enterprise; they are transferable and the offices remain overstuffed. The management is top heavy and the number of managers is about one-tenth of workers employed in these concerns.

(d) **Red Tapism** Bureaucratic delays create additional problems and the need to have specific sanctions of funds every time causes cost escalation and inefficiency.

It is argued that since India has created a strong potential for industrial base, now the potential should be fully exploited. PSUs should confine themselves to the provision of infrastructural facilities only and all that can be left to the market mechanism should be taken away from the PSUs. The belief in the advantages of market mechanism has become a worldwide phenomenon.

Arguments For PSUs

(a) **Control of commanding Heights of the Economy** The public sector has succeeded in achieving this. It lays down the framework of supplies, demands and pricing policy for the entire private sector.

(b) **Industrialisation** It has helped in the country's industrialisation by assuming responsibility for providing infrastructure and establishing basic and key industries. Only the market forces and private sector would not have made this possible.

(c) **Generating Additional Employment** PSUs employ a large number of persons. They also have a multiplier effect on the growth of employment through the growth of ancillary industries, distribution and marketing channels and so on.

(d) **Economic Growth** The PSUs have helped achieve this by facilitating capital accumulation, attaining a certain amount of balanced growth, developing infrastructural facilities and acting as a regulatory leverage.

Whatever be the different arguments, it remains a fact that certain aspects make it essential to rethink the working of PSUs. The PSUs lack a driving economic force; they are subjected to administered input and output prices. Sometimes they enter into activities (production and trading of many consumer goods) that are best left to the private sector. Instead of running an end-less debate about the very existence of PSUs, we must strive to chalk out policies that would best help attain the standards set out for these enterprises.

Q India has the world's largest mass of illiterate people. How can this impede economic growth and what should be done to remove this obstacle?

Ans. At present India is home to the world's largest group of illiterates—over 350 million people. In 50 years, our literacy has only increased from 16 per cent of our population to 52 in 1991. We still do not have free and compulsory universal primary education. Universities have grown from less than a dozen to 171 plus 36 deemed universities. Ironically, although higher education caters to only about 5 per cent of the nation's university age population, it is subsidised by the State upto 80 per cent of the cost per student.

If we assume that economic growth ultimately depends on labour and capital, education is very crucial for economic growth since productivity of both labour and capital depends crucially on education. In almost all the rapidly growing East Asian economies, economic growth has been accompanied by an equally rapid spread of education as well as a transformation of systems of education and training. And literacy, as we know, is the first step towards education. In recent times, it has even been pointed out that in the long run, the sector which would be most vulnerable to low levels of literacy is neither industry nor services but agriculture. Growth of agriculture will, in the coming

years, will depend more and more on increase in productivity. This can happen only when the average farmer is able to directly access, assimilate and apply technological information.

The problems that we have in the spread of education could be because of the following:

(a) too little spent on primary education

(b) virtual absence of investment in adjuncts of literacy such as public libraries and other dissemination systems, which give ultimate meaning to the acquisition of literacy skills

(c) recruitment of teachers who lack ability and motivation

(d) inadequate teaching aids

(e) lack of accountability of primary school teachers

Although these are only some of the problems of the education system, they do determine the general state of education in the economy. We can definitely take the following steps to achieve a certain amount of success in the spread of education:

(1) **Improving the attitude towards primary education**—First, this involves having a better and increased allocation of funds for primary education. Second, there has to be a certain kind of accountability of the teachers in primary schools. It has been suggested that transfer of the primary schools to local level governments would help in improving accountability of teachers. The centralised system of recruitment and supervision prevents the accountability by teachers.

(2) There is a need to hike the public expenditure on literacy and primary education. In a broad manner, this should include investment in changing the social and economic context in which the educational system operates. The condition of school buildings should be improved as should be the provision of teaching aids.

(3) **Paucity of funds is not the only problem.** Utilisation of funds under the education budget is also a serious problem. Education gets low priority in government administration, therefore the misutilisation of funds in education does not attract much attention. This attitude needs to be changed and proper utilisation of funds should take place.

Any strategy for national development requires that the education system be revamped to attain a grand spread of literacy.

Share of public expenditure on education (per cent)

India	11.2
Korea	22.4
China	12.5
Malaysia	19
Thailand	20

Q. Is the case for privatization of public banks in India strong enough? What could be the possible ways of achieving this?

Ans. There is no doubt about the fact that there is a need for increasing competition in the Indian banking system. One option considered has been the large-scale entry of private banks. However, this option has certain lacunas. For one thing, this could reduce the franchise value of bank licenses through the erosion of bank profits. Profits decrease on entry as the entrant banks, in an effort to capture market shares, underprice loans, and overprice deposits.

Due to the problems associated with the large-scale entry of private banks, a logical alternative suggested is the privatization of public banks so as to bring about efficiency improvements in these banks. Privatization of banks is an option exercised in some countries such as Korea, Chile, Hungary and Poland.

Arguments Against

(1) The social obligations that are being met out by public sector banks are likely to suffer as a result of privatization as private banks would be more concerned with commercial profitability rather than social welfare.

(2) There is the fear that the existence of only private banks can have more of a destabilizing effect on the banking system. This is because the failure of one large private bank can easily cause panic among depositors and initiate a bank run. In case of public banks, the customers are not so afraid because they know that they will never lose their money—due to the large funds of the government.

Counter-arguments

(1) The argument about the social obligations can be countered by the fact that "social targets" can be set within the regulatory framework of RBI even in the case of privatized banks. In fact, such a policy is already being implemented by requiring domestic private and foreign banks to meet priority sector obligations. The fear of monopoly pricing and behaviour by private banks can also be appropriately regulated and enforced through anti-trust legislation.

(2) The fear of panic because of failure of private banks can also be removed by suitably monitoring the functioning. Satisfactory internal procedures can be introduced in banks as regards accounting and lending, regardless of their ownership.

The case for privatization at least some of the public banks is strong enough. Although there can be possible hurdles, certain routes can be found. One possibility is to sell major equity share to the general public. Another possibility could be to allow "acceptable" business houses or "acceptable" private banks to take over weak public sector banks. The problem of political opposition can be solved slowly by consensus building.

Q. What are some of the problems of small-scale and cottage industries? What steps can be taken to remove these?

Ans. India is famous for its small-scale and cottage industries. These industries constitute an important part of the economy. However, these industries face certain problems that hinder their performance.

(i) **Inadequacy of Finance:** These industries feel the shortage of finance. Banks are, most often, unwilling to lend because of unsecured loans. Cooperative societies are also concerned mainly with agriculture. This adversely affects their production and marketing facilities.

(ii) **Shortage of raw materials:** The small-scale industries face a shortage of raw materials. Various studies have shown that the small-scale industries have not shared proportionately in the growing supplies of scarce raw materials.

(iii) **Technical Assistance:** Develop-

ment of small-scale industries is hampered by the low-level of technology and shortage of trained and experienced supervisory personnel. This also prevents any increase in productive efficiency and encourage new product lines.

(iv) **Marketing Assistance:** Small-scale firms suffer from marketing difficulties as their products are often unstandardised and of variable quality. Branded and advertised commodities have an advantage.

The government can certainly make efforts to remove these obstacles through its policies and plans.

First, the government must realize the importance of opening up avenues for the small-scale industries to have easy access to raw materials.

Second, the credit worthiness of these industries should not be judged in terms of their ability to do the job and earn profit. There can be the evolution of a system of integrated credit whereby long-term capital and short-term credit are provided adequately a reasonable rate of interest.

Third, there should be methods to provide advice on the technical problems facing them. We can also have facility workshops, to undertake difficult production operation on behalf of small firms at a cost which ideally should exclude interest and depreciation on the machinery employed.

Fourth, government should intervene to eliminate marketing imperfections by improving information, and bringing producers and dealers in close contact with one another.

Fifth, there is a suggestion to create industrial estates i.e., to provide, on rental basis, good accommodation and other basic common facilities to groups of small entrepreneurs who would otherwise find it difficult to secure these facilities at reasonable prices. India has, so far, been partially successful in this but we can make efforts to make this more successful.

The small-scale and cottage industries are an inherent part of the Indian economy. We must make all efforts to improve this sector and make it economically more viable.

VOCABULARY

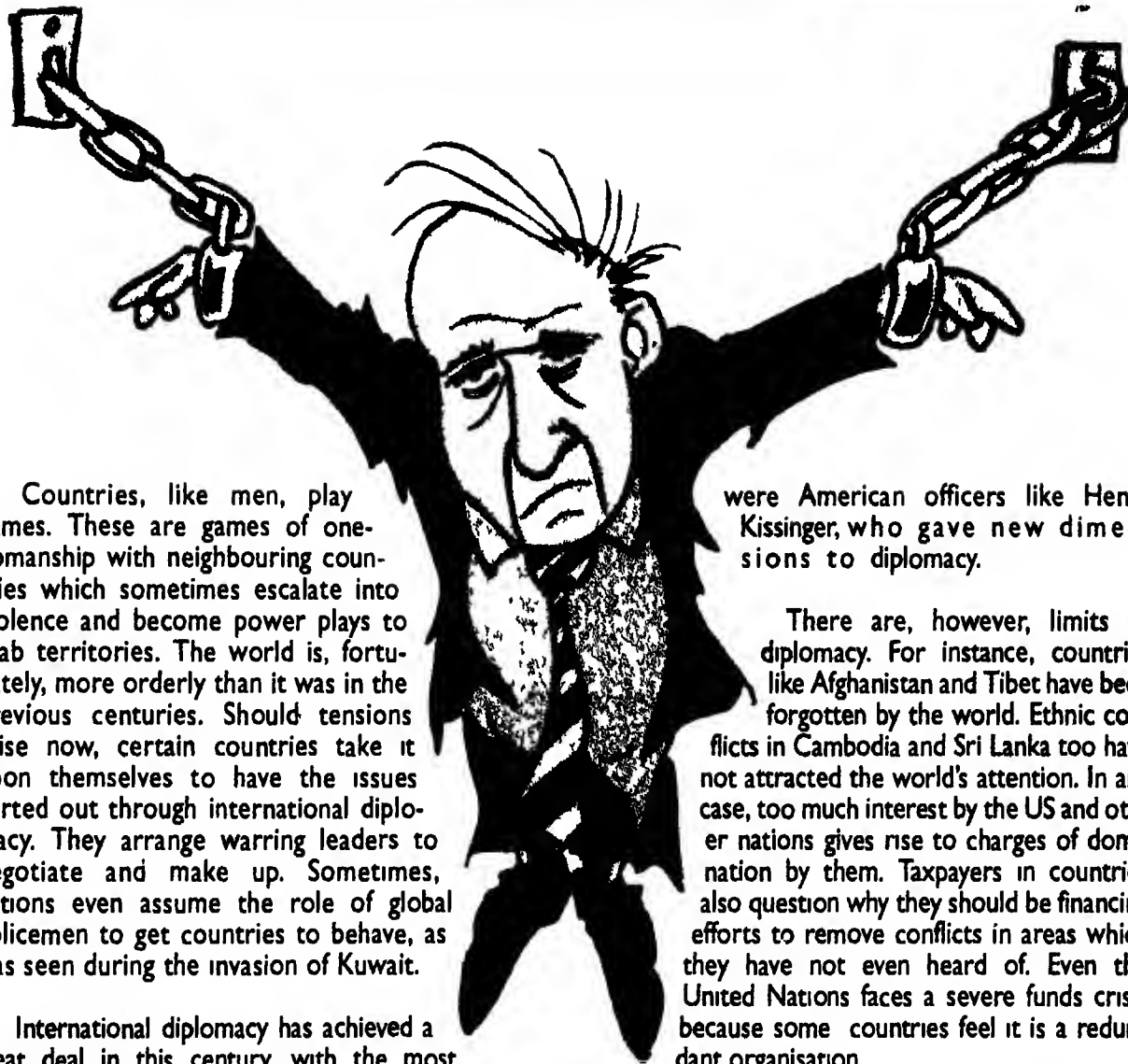
Improve Your Word Power

- 1 **abdicate:** (a) possess (b) abandon (c) wander (d) clarify
- 2 **beleaguered:** (a) besieged (b) injured (c) insulted (d) drunk
- 3 **collude** (a) cooperate (b) contradict (c) convince (d) conspire
- 4 **daub:** (a) smear (b) smell (c) simplify (d) stop
- 5 **eerie:** (a) holy (b) wholesome (c) unearthly (d) fair
- 6 **finicky:** (a) gentle (b) weak (c) fussy (d) foul
- 7 **garnish:** (a) rebuke (b) decorate (c) reject (d) confess
- 8 **hoary:** (a) harmful (b) suitable (c) complex (d) old
- 9 **implode:** (a) order (b) require (c) console (d) burst
- 10 **jingoism:** (a) poverty (extreme) (b) destruction (total) (c) nationalism (excessive) (d) death (sudden)
- 11 **kid-glove:** (a) rude (b) gentle (c) mysterious (d) awkward
- 12 **lobby** (n) (a) pressure group (b) stage acting (c) secret mission (d) roaring business
- 13 **murk** (a) prosperity (b) gloom (c) planning (d) meditation
- 14 **nauseat:** (a) disgust (b) conceal (c) reveal (d) steal
- 15 **opposite:** (a) construct (b) obstruct (c) auction (d) freeze
- 16 **precipitate** (a) hasten (b) restrain (c) repent (d) repeat
- 17 **rope** (v): (a) punish (b) imitate (c) discover (d) persuade
- 18 **sloppy:** (a) careless (b) spiritual (c) worldly (d) scholarly
- 19 **witch-hunt** (a) jealousy (b) persecution (c) notification (d) friendship
- 20 **zany:** (a) harmful influence (b) pleasant surprise (c) foolish jester (d) warm welcome

ANSWERS

- 1 **abdicate:** (b) abandon, renounce
—Increasing opposition and unrest forced the tyrant ruler to *abdicate* his throne and go into exile for good
- 2 **beleaguered:** (a) besieged, harassed
—The *beleaguered* soldiers were forced to lay down their arms and surrender before the victorious army
- 3 **collude:** (d) conspire, plot
—The misguided youth easily *collude* with the enemy and harm the national interests in ignorance
- 4 **daub:** (a) smear, spread
—The old lady *daubed* her face with thick make-up and thus made a fool of herself before the viewers
- 5 **eerie:** (c) unearthly, weird, mysterious
—When the dead bodies of fire victims were brought to the cremation ground, an *eerie* silence descended there

- 6 **finicky:** (c) fussy, nervously excited or active
—The young director of the film has proved himself beyond doubt that he is a reliably competent but unerringly *finicky* craftsman
- 7 **garnish** (b) decorate
—I cannot say anything about the preparation but the fish plate *garnished* with slices of lemon appears unique
- 8 **hoary** (d) old, ancient
—Legends belonging to the *hoary* period of Indian history and culture are still inspiring and meaningful
- 9 **implode** (d) burst, collapse
—Due to excessive load and sparking, the transformer *imploded* loud and caught fire in no time
- 10 **jingoism** (c) nationalism patriotism (excessive)
—Today the world believes more in consultation and conciliation than in irresponsible and pompous *jingoism*
- 11 **kid-glove:** (b) gentle
—*Kid glove* methods to unearth black money haven't worked—it is time to get tough
- 12 **lobby** (n) (a) pressure group
—The anti nuclear *lobby* is stronger today than ever before
- 13 **murk** (b) gloom, darkness
—Before entering the house we were trying to peer through the *murk* that had descended on the entire building
- 14 **nauseat** (a) disgust sicken
—Since childhood, the very idea of eating raw shellfish *nauseates* me
- 15 **opposite** (b) obstruct, block up
—The move of the opposition to *opposite* the introduction of the bill in the House was condemned by the print media
- 16 **precipitate:** (a) hasten, foment, cause
—Just one error of judgement on the part of the ruling party *precipitated* the national crisis further
- 17 **rope** (v): (d) persuade
—All my friends have been *roped in* to help organise the event and make it a success
- 18 **sloppy:** (a) careless, untidy
—In the get together, she was conspicuous by her *sloppy* looks and bad manners
- 19 **witch-hunt:** (b) persecution, investigation
—We should trust the government when it declares that it won't resort to *witch-hunt* of its opponents
- 20 **zany:** (c) foolish jester, half-witted person
—The presence and the antics of a regular *zany* in a circus show used to be its main attraction



Countries, like men, play games. These are games of one-upmanship with neighbouring countries which sometimes escalate into violence and become power plays to grab territories. The world is, fortunately, more orderly than it was in the previous centuries. Should tensions arise now, certain countries take it upon themselves to have the issues sorted out through international diplomacy. They arrange warring leaders to negotiate and make up. Sometimes, nations even assume the role of global policemen to get countries to behave, as was seen during the invasion of Kuwait.

International diplomacy has achieved a great deal in this century, with the most notable breakthroughs achieved in the Middle East, where bitter foes—Israel and the PLO—came together to negotiate peace after almost a century of conflict. The US and China started diplomatic and commercial relations. At the forefront of these initiatives

were American officers like Henry Kissinger, who gave new dimensions to diplomacy.

There are, however, limits to diplomacy. For instance, countries like Afghanistan and Tibet have been forgotten by the world. Ethnic conflicts in Cambodia and Sri Lanka too have not attracted the world's attention. In any case, too much interest by the US and other nations gives rise to charges of domination by them. Taxpayers in countries also question why they should be financing efforts to remove conflicts in areas which they have not even heard of. Even the United Nations faces a severe funds crisis because some countries feel it is a redundant organisation.

Our cover feature describes international diplomacy and its future. From solving conflicts, it is increasingly being looked on as meddling. Have we then reached the limits of diplomacy?

THE LIMITS OF DIPLOMACY

International diplomacy gives some semblance of order in the world. It gives a feeling of security that some nations will rush to solve disputes in any part of the world should they arise.

The United Nations too lends some kind of security for weaker nations. Small countries do not have the fear of being overrun by large neighbouring countries and there appears to be a restraining force on powerful countries. Very often this is just a moral restraint, and the fear of action by the international community seems to be working. The world has not degenerated into a group of warring nations.

Some of the successes of diplomacy in recent times have been to bring Israel and the Palestinians on the negotiating table, the brokering of peace among warring tribes in Africa and the Dayton peace accord to bring peace in Bosnia. Diplomatic efforts, however, could not prevent the Gulf War or help in solving long outstanding problems like the solution to the Kashmir problem or the conflict in Sri Lanka.

To be fair, the job of the diplomat is not an easy one. He has to deal with stubborn leaders who think their viewpoint is correct and who are not willing to yield an inch to the other party. He has to answer to charges about why a distant country is interfering in the affairs of others. Above all, it may lead to alienation of the countries as they may feel that a powerful country is

trying to dominate them. When India sent a peace-keeping force to Sri Lanka, this was the criticism it faced.

Declining Importance

While the importance of diplomacy cannot be denied, its role has been declining over the years. The world has moved on to a system where economic strength decides a country's importance and relations with others. Powerful nations use the threat of trade sanctions to twist the arms of weaker nations. The world order emerging out of the post-Cold War phase places high emphasis on countries joining one trade bloc or the other and to open their economies to the outside world. In a world where the World Trade Organisation (WTO) reigns supreme, even the importance of the UN has been decimated. In the modern world, countries only take heed when it hurts them economically. International diplomacy is concentrated only in areas which have caught world attention, such as West Asia and Bosnia. In other areas, there is little diplomatic effort that takes place.

The second reason for declining importance of diplomacy is the squeezing of bud-



Camp David Summit—One of the very few successful diplomatic exercises. It resulted in restoration of relations between Israel and Egypt.

gets the world over. With countries facing resource problems even for domestic spending, taking out money to solve someone else's problems does not seem a very wise thing to do.

The third reason is the absence of statesmen in the world arena. In countries across the world, politicians are able to come to power by exploiting sectarian, populist causes. Very often they do not have the vision or a world view to be able to play any role in the world arena. The world also suffers from increasing paranoia and will often question the objectives of the nation which may try to be diplomatic. What interest does it have? Is it trying to dominate? There is today no leader in the world who can inspire confidence among people, cutting across national boundaries.

Moreover, with aid and trade becoming sticks to beat other countries with, the role of diplomacy could only decline. Today, powerful nations use aid to force nations to accept terms which may be against their national inter-

ests. Countries in Africa and Asia, including India, have been forced to accept wastes from the West, sometimes toxic, if they wanted to get aid from the developed nations. When nations are being beaten with these tools on the one hand, they become suspicious of diplomatic efforts too and see them as unnecessary meddling in their affairs.

Finally, countries are also not open to unsolicited advice from the West. India resents any foreign interference in Kashmir, which it regards as an internal matter. It has told the international community not to take heed of Pakistani propaganda on many occasions. Similarly, China resents any advice about its relations with Taiwan. It has successfully told the West that while its markets were open for multinationals, it would not tolerate any dictates on how it should behave.

Failure of UN

The decline of diplomacy could have been countered by the UN had it taken a more pro-active role in the affairs of

countries. The organisation has, however, been reduced to passing resolutions about nations having conflicts. Usually, these are not passed without threats of veto and wrangling by other countries. If they are passed at all, the affected countries simply ignore them. Expensive conferences are organised by the UN with little action on the ground. For many reasons, the UN has been reduced to an international club of hot air, having little legitimacy.

The role of the UN has been taken over by the USA as far as monitoring the nations is concerned. In any case, the USA has more influence over the rest of the world through its belligerent threats of trade and economic sanctions. Since these hurt more than Security Council resolutions, the authority of the UN stands further eroded. There is not a single diplomat today in the UN that has the stature to negotiate with world leaders.

When it was formed after the World War II, it was hoped that the UN could provide diplomatic effort round the globe. It did so initially but gradually lost its role and legitimacy. There have been unqualified failures of the UN in Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia. During the Gulf War, it merely provided a hint of legitimacy to the military action led by USA. In many places, it has stood by and watched people's sufferings without doing anything. The UN has been absent from the Middle East peace negotiations. For the most part, the UN has been a bystander in the developments taking place in the world.

It is unlikely that the UN



The world has moved on to a system where economic supremacy decides a country's importance and relations with others.

can be revived, mainly because it has no economic muscle or authority to dictate terms to nations. That role will be increasingly played by the US in the future. It has already expanded its area of influence through expansion of the NATO and it is no secret that it dominates the WTO as well. When the US has emerged as the most powerful nation, it would be natural to expect that it would be the one to play a role in international diplomacy. No nation or group of nations would be able to match the country in terms of its sheer strength.

Role of Media

The media, of course, plays a very big part in focusing attention to world problems.

Thriving on sensationalism, it highlights the trivial while ignoring world problems. A look at American media shows that instances of air-crashes and the life of rich people find pride of place. It does little to describe world problems. Countries like Cambodia, Sri Lanka or Myanmar seem too distant to be exotic in the minds of those living in developed nations.

Closer home, the Indian media is obsessed with the actions of politicians in Delhi while ongoing problems like Centre-State relations or the development of the hill States is ignored. There are many neglected areas within our own country which are seldom highlighted. Even within the country, certain States do not accept the intervention of the Central government and

view its actions with suspicion. Problems have been allowed to linger on for too long without intervention by either national or international governments.

The media gives urgency to the problems it highlights at the expense of problems it does not. Fed by the international news agencies, it has created an agenda in international diplomacy that is blatantly pro-West. The world is now seized with problems in Israel as it was earlier bombarded from reports from Bosnia. The Middle East is a 'glamorous' area to be active in: two Nobel Peace Prizes have been given and the heart-rending pictures published in the media every other day makes it the number one problem of the world. A strong Jewish lobby keeps the US interest alive.

There may be an indication, at least in the Middle East, that media attention is actually encouraging hard attitudes. The Palestinians know that one way to bring pressure on Israel is through the US. A few bombs or terrorist attacks and the US is sure to respond by sending a diplomat to Israel. Similarly, Netanyahu's hard stand may well have arisen partly because it is fashionable to sound tough on television. The Middle East and many of the trouble spots of the world beg the question: would the problems reduce if the terrorists knew that their acts would not be reported in the media? Acts of violence are usually committed to gain attention to a cause. If the world media decided not to highlight such news, it would be reasonable to expect that many move-

United Nations



Forgotten Nations

International diplomacy has been active in some areas but has totally neglected others. Here are some nations that the world has forgotten, even though there is forcible occupation in some and untold human suffering in others. These nations are not considered important on the chessboard of international relations.



Tibet. China occupied Tibet in 1950. The Dalai Lama lives in exile and tries to draw attention to his nation that the world has forgotten. In what is being called 'cultural genocide', the identity of Tibetans is under threat. No news of the occupied country filters to the outside world. The Chinese have reportedly stepped up their campaign against the Tibetan Buddhist culture since 1994, when the USA dropped human rights as a condition for its Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status. China has installed its preferred religious leaders than the ones nominated by the Dalai Lama and its harsh attitude may be its attempt to get rid of the Tibetan identity completely. China is also cracking down on the monks. No nation has come to the aid of the Tibetans and it has almost ceased to be an issue in the international agenda.

Afghanistan. The unfortunate country was a pawn in cold war politics and was forgotten when the cold war ended. The Soviet Union had occupied it for 10 years and the US-backed mujahedin had fought the communists. After the Soviet pull-out, it was left to its own devices, which was a civil war between warring factions. The country today lies in ruin. Land mines have maimed or killed thousands, including children. The ongoing battle between the Taliban and forces has resulted in untold misery. Islamic fundamentalists roam the countryside. There is no response from the international community to end the sufferings of the country and nor is there a solution in sight for the civil war in the impoverished country.



Sri Lanka. Ethnic strife and operations by the armed forces has caused thousands of deaths in Sri Lanka. Yet, it remains a forgotten country as far as international diplomacy is concerned. For most developed nations, it is too far away and sounds almost exotic and it does not make political sense to spend time and resources to try to resolve the conflict. In 1987, India made efforts to do so and signed an accord. Mr Rajiv Gandhi visited Colombo and it was hoped that the accord would bring an end to the prolonged strife. A peace keeping force was constituted to ensure implementation of the agreement. The diplomatic efforts resulted in a fiasco and since 1990, Sri Lanka has tried to deal with the LTTE on its own.

Myanmar. Time was when the USA would rush to countries where democratic movements were trying to raise their heads. It would often send its troops to fight communists wherever they existed, from Cuba to Vietnam, often getting a bad name for its efforts. This seems to have changed over the years. Myanmar has had a fledgling democratic movement under its charismatic leader Ang Suu Kyi. She has also won the Nobel Peace Prize and in spite of being under house arrest, has kept the demand for democracy alive in a country ruled by the army. Yet, no outside help has been forthcoming. Nor has there been a diplomatic effort to resolve the problem. After its Vietnam debacle, the US is wary of venturing into unknown territory. Nor has it put pressure on the military rulers to allow democracy to flourish.

Cambodia. One political crisis after another plagued Cambodia and pushed the country backwards. The country first faced the wrath of the Khmer Rouge and thousands of people were killed without any country taking up diplomatic efforts. Civil war erupted in the country this year following fighting among people loyal to Hun Sen of the Communist Cambodian People's Party and to Prince Ranariddh. The international community is divided in its approach to Cambodia. The US and Germany have suspended their aid following the overthrow of Prince Ranariddh. The country is in for unstable times and must sort out its problems itself as diplomatic interest in the country is lacking.



Africa: Nations in Africa have suffered huge problems from civil war to famine to ethnic killings. Last year the fight between two tribes, the Hutus and the Tutsis, resulted in tensions spreading across borders of countries. Somalia and Ethiopia have recurrent droughts. The most impoverished continent is also the one that the world has forgotten. Apart from sending aid when a crisis breaks out, the world has done little to solve Africa's problems or put the impoverished nations on the path to recovery.

Chechnya. Chechnya has been at war with Russia after declaring independence from it. President Yeltsin sent troops to quash the uprising which turned out to be a prolonged conflict. No diplomatic effort was taken to end the bloodshed, which was seen as Russia's internal matter. The independence movement was crushed, and a peace accord was signed in August, 1996. The accord says that the Chechens would be allowed to decide their future but it is felt that Russia would not like to give up control of the region.

ments would die down of their own accord.

Dubious adventures

The rise of religious fundamentalism also deters diplomatic initiatives. How is one to tackle fanatics who think people from other religions are heretics? Likewise, warring nations will see any diplomatic activity as an interference into their sovereign right.

There is a thin line that separates interference from diplomacy. A country may try to force its own thinking through diplomacy, or do it expecting some benefits in return. Host countries will undoubtedly be suspicious of that. Much of the distrust has resulted from dubious foreign policy adventures.

If India attracts the charges of trying to be a big brother to the smaller nations in the region, the USA is called a bully. Its seductive pop culture and technological muscle makes every other nation fall in line. Above all, it has a domineering diplomatic style. Its diplomats behave as if they know everything. India has often felt that when US officials have spoken on Kashmir or its nuclear policy.

Other nations resent threats by USA to impose trade and economic sanctions for almost any deviation. With China, it tried to tie up human rights with trade but had to give up after being told not to interfere with the internal affairs of the country.

The Chinese Premier Li Peng has spoken out for a fair and just new international political and economic order. In an apparent reference to USA, he said, "some countries

attempt to lead the world and some also attempt to bully the weak and the poor." China has been worried about the pro-Western world order and has been trying to form an alternative power bloc. Russia and China have tried to come together to form an alternative to the world order. Even France resents the arrogant style of US diplomacy.

Future of Diplomacy

In these circumstances, what is the future of international diplomacy? Will it lose its importance to commercial interests, or will another powerful group of countries join hands to counter the influence of USA?

Only time can answer these questions. While many nations question the new world order, few are in a position to do anything about it, except complain with impotence. Nations like France have often complained of the slipshod way in which USA sometimes takes decision which affect the world. Other nations are helpless bystanders as they are coerced into signing international treaties under threats of economic sanctions. The future of diplomacy certainly seems bleak, given this scenario.

The absence of a respected negotiator like Henry Kissinger, and of forward looking world statesmen, also poses a threat to diplomacy. The efforts of former Presidents of USA, such as Jimmy Carter, are too few and ineffective to count as serious international diplomacy. Two major threats exist: first, that nations will begin to look



The Middle East: Relations between Israel and the Palestinians have never aroused confidence and with the election of hard-liner Netanyahu as Israel's Prime Minister, the region came close to full-scale war on several occasions. Bombings of Israeli towns has continued, killing hundreds of civilians. Israel responds swiftly to pound PLO bases to avenge the bombings. International diplomats have criss-crossed the region to try and bring the foes closer. They were rewarded when the Oslo peace accord was signed and Israel agreed to give up parts of occupied territories in return for peace. Since then, though Israel has been giving up land in a phased manner, Palestinian terrorist groups such as Hamas have kept up their bombing campaigns. The diplomats want that the two parties should not give up

the peace talks in spite of the activities of the Arabs. PLO's Yasser Arafat has shown himself to be a wily person by keeping up the appearance of keeping peace talks; he has not condoned the bombings by Hamas. The US has been very active in encouraging peace talks and has often arranged meetings between the two. A summit was held in Washington in October, 1996 after severe fighting had threatened to disrupt the peace process. On January 15, 1997 an agreement was signed on the status of Hebron. It is clear that the diplomats would be kept busy in times to come because a long-term solution to the Middle East problem is still to be found.

China-Taiwan: China is touchy about Taiwan, which it regards as its own territory. Last year, when elections took place in Taiwan, China went to the extent of firing missiles close to its shores. A visit to USA by Taiwanese premier resulted in strong protests by China. The two countries have now established the first direct maritime link in nearly 50 years. The Taiwanese government had banned sea and air links, but indirect phone and postal connections were established in the 1980s. The diplomatic effort will result in better business ties and mutual benefit for both the countries.

North and South Korea: Fighting between North and South Korea stopped in 1953 and the USA has insisted since then that the two countries sign a peace treaty. Finally in 1997, after diplomatic efforts for many years, talks began in New York with representatives of the two countries, US and China, to chalk out a treaty. The meeting was held to arrange for an agenda for substantive negotiations and to get the two countries to start a dialogue and replace the armistice with a permanent treaty. Reunification of the countries is also being talked about though it does not seem to happen in the near future. North Korea is in deep economic difficulties and famine stalks the land. A reunification would exhaust South Korea's resources. North Korea, on the other hand, has agreed to abide by the armistice until a new treaty comes into effect, though it had earlier declared the armistice dead. With a little push from US and Chinese diplomats, a treaty could be signed between the two countries, paving the way for a possible reunification later on.

Bosnia. The conflict in Bosnia has been the most brutal in Europe since World War II. Croatia and Slovenia declared independence in 1991 and the Serbian dominated Yugoslav army pulled out. The Serbs rejected Croatian independence and fighting broke out. In a referendum in Bosnia in 1992, Croats and Muslims voted for independence but war broke out with Bosnian Serbs laying siege to Sarajevo. Ethnic cleansing of Muslims and Croats started and the UN imposed sanctions on it. Peace plans by EU and UN were rejected by the Serbs. In January 1995, ex-President of USA, Jimmy Carter, negotiated a four-month truce but fighting broke out as soon as the truce was over. After much bloodshed and NATO strikes when both sides refused to stop the war, the US was able to get the warring sides together in Dayton. After hectic negotiations a peace accord was signed in Paris on December 14, 1995, which is one of the most spectacular success of international diplomacy in recent times

inward and give up their efforts in the international arena in favour of economic sanctions; and second, that host nations will continue to reject diplomatic intervention and will rely on their own judgement which may of course sometimes be very narrow.

In the absence of arbitrators, it is quite possible that some regional conflicts may not be resolved at all.

International diplomacy

serves a very important function, that of keeping a restraining force on, say, an ambitious dictator or an expansionist country. It certainly helps in diffusing tensions and bringing aggrieved parties on the negotiating table. Should diplomacy give up its role in favour of economic threats, much of the restraining factor will vanish.

There is a plethora of problems and regional dis-

agreements which may well blow up in the future. International diplomacy can prevent that from happening, if it takes up the challenging task of keeping the world order. Of course, a world statesman would be required for that purpose.

The danger is that without a restraining force, the world might degenerate into warring nations, much like the world in feudal times.

PERSONAL & YOU

Reading: Practical Vs Impractical

"Pick something valuable from everything you read", is a sage suggestion often overlooked by eager readers.

It is essential to cultivate the habit of reading not flying from subject to subject. It should be systematic, thoughtful and analysing. The hard core of it must be stored carefully in the mind for future use as does a computer. It is only through this method that information is useful, accurate and extensive

It is not essential just to garner information through books. After collecting it, you should have the ability to shift the grain from the chaff.

We should cultivate the quality of learning how beautiful a book is, the feeling that this is a treasure to hold in hands, to look guard and preserve.

Pretence is fatal. People pose as avid readers whereas, in fact, they are just as ignorant as an Eskimo is of refrigeration!

S.T. Coleridge, poet and critic, has defined readers of books as under. "There are four kinds of readers. The first is like the hour-glass; and their reading being like the sand, it runs in and it runs out and leaves not a vestige behind."

"A second is like the sponge, which

imbibes everything and returns it nearly in the same state, only a little dirtier."

"A third is like a jelly-bag, allowing all that is pure to pass away and retaining only the refuse and dregs."

"And the fourth is like the slaves in the diamond mines of Colconda, who, casting all that is worthless, retains only pure gems." Which category do you belong to? Decide for yourself.

Reading at random, skipping some portions and lingering on some others may yield some temporary results—like thumbing through a chapter just before the examination. But this is an apology of a study, not study.

Milton has described this state and such people as: "Deep versed in books, but shallow in himself." The secret of good reading lies in forcing yourself to *reflect* on what you read, para by para.

The hard-core aim of reading is to brace up for the mind to have the faculties kept on the stretch.

It is like the effect of a walk on body. Reading Bacon or Addison is much like climbing up a hill and may do one the same sort of good.

Another, often overlooked aspect of

reading is *thinking*. One can garner knowledge (read information) by reading but must separate the chaff from grain by thinking.

If you do a lot of reading, preparation for writing a paper or reviewing, you will soon find that there, too, good notes are the best way to enable you to sum up, and to return quickly to special points.

Put your notes into your own words, and better yet, put them in the form of questions and answers.

Have you been keeping your notes in a loose-leaf notebook? That is a good way, because you can change the order and add or remove pages at will

Another good way is to keep your notes on 3 x5 index cards. Then you can easily slip them in and out of pockets or handbag. You can also separate groups of cards with rubber bands if necessary.

If you are tackling some research for a term paper, how will you organize your work? First, try to pin down your subject. There is no more fertile cause of discouragement among students doing research than vagueness as to the exact problem they are trying to solve. "The Big mafia in Hindi Cinema" is much too big a subject.

Have you an idea of what the study will yield? In scientific method, this is called hypothesis. It is the point that will be proved or disproved by your study. Not all study is expected to live up to scientific methods but at least you can save time if you know what the principles are.

In gathering material, unless you are already familiar with the field, the first step should be a bibliographical survey.

What has already been written about your problem? When was most of the work done? In recent years, has more or less been written? You will find lists of additional books on the subject in encyclopedias and other reference works, also on most library catalogue cards.

If possible deal with primary sources. For instance, if your subject is what Gandhi believed, read that first. You will get a feeling of knowing your subject that no amount of secondary sources—appraisals by other people—will give you. The original writing is more useful.

Break down your subject into its main stages as this clarifies the mind and expression. A cluttered mind produces a bad piece of writing. It clogs further reading.

Have a close range discussion with your teacher. It has values of its own. Opportunities for individual discussion with competent people are not always easy to come by, so take advantage of them. Have a list of questions. Go over the subject first, giving yourself a chance to gather your thoughts.

In preparing, for example, for the essay, proportion is the first problem to be solved. How much time should you give to this as compared with that? You should be able to guide yourself by the relative amounts of time of reading material devoted to the different parts. Estimate before you begin the task.

If you are preparing for a specific examination, make sure you know exactly what it is to cover. Don't hesitate to ask someone who knows better.

The worth of your reading depends to a great extent on the materials at your disposal. Some students find they do not have enough material. Others find their notes too long to be manageable. This is the first test of your study method.

If you have an opportunity to interact with others, who have a better grasp of the work than you do, give thanks and take advantage of it.

Also, if you are not too much pressed for time, and people who know less about the work want to interact with you, remember that the very effort to make it clear to someone else drives it home to you much better.

Think possible questions which might appear in the examination. But don't make up your mind that *only* those questions will be asked. When the time comes, be rested. A break is as good as a fresh effort!

The essence and philosophy of reading is best summed up by Macaulay: "A page digested is better than a volume hurriedly read."

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Freedom of fluent speech...



Winking in the Dark!

We are becoming slaves of the media. The idiot box has started acting like a tyrant. The printed word is no less. Worse are the advertisements which have become to act like mental sedatives. They lull our reasoning power.

A health conscious man bought an expensive medical book. After going through it, he threw it away. His wife, curious like all wives, asked him the reason. "I think I am suffering from all the ailments described therein", replied the irate husband. One can understand the wife's amusement as well as the consternation.

We are living in an age which shatters all our illusions, especially those about health. Everyday we come across something or the other which tells us that this is a health hazard and that is a bigger one. Coffee, tea, eggs, sugar, salt, butter and ghee are already on the don't list.

Our options to enjoy life are narrowing down with every passing day because of the explosion of scientific and medical knowledge. We have to be content with less and less of more and more of forbidden eats!

As of today, you cannot

smoke, you cannot imbibe, you cannot work too hard (you become workaholic), you cannot eat scores of things which your wife prepares for you because they contain the wrong amount of calories, fats, starches, sugar and carbohydrates, and what have you. Become a skeleton. There is nothing in nature which can beat it in longevity!

There is a curfew on your eating pleasures. On certain foods such as red meat, there is even a martial law imposed on you. You are prisoner of these kill-joys. Eating is no longer a pleasure. Life is dangerous. Do not live it!

We have pawned our thinking to the printed word. Twenty thousand newspapers and magazines assault what is left of our ability to think. We are becoming intellectual parrots!

Glamorous ads have

rushed our ability to think for ourselves. We have more faith in 'commercialtainment' and 'infotainment'—both horrible words.

One ad tells that a few drops of a liquid tonic transforms a sluggard office man into a work fiend. He crashes through the window panes of the office!

If your child does not take a particular brand of cough syrup, he cannot recover. If you do not take a tonic, your vitality suffers. If you wear a sweater from a particular wool, a beautiful woman caresses you.

If a woman uses a brand of talcum powder, a man runs after her like mad. Well, we are all supposed to be dim-wits!

We must believe that a washing soap saves our "izzat", pan masala saves marriages or makes a beautiful girl say "yes". A tooth paste adds

warmth and togetherness to love.

If a teenager has pimples on her lovely face, it is gloom and doom for her. But cheer up! They have a magic tube which converts her into a fairy in five days.

You are doomed to suffer from pains and sprains if you do not rub a particular pain-reliever on your limb. Accept this brainwashing? No? Suffer.

While you feel lighter of purse and heavier of heart, those who sell the line go laughing to the bank! We have pawned our thinking to those who produce cultural litter for us, presuming we are all empty at the upper storey.

But it will be unfair to blame these dream merchants because they know that sans advertising they will be winking in the dark.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Read the following sentences carefully and find out the error in any one part of each sentence. If the sentence has no error, the answer is (5).

1 He read widely(1), thought hardly(2), listened to those(3) who had something to contribute(4). No error(5)

2 Any attempt to sit on judgement(1) over individual candidates(2) as proposed would cut(3) at the root of party functioning(4). No error(5)

3 On a second visit to the spot(1) some twenty years later(2) Jaidev was sad to see(3) the hills denuded from their green cover by half(4). No error(5)

4 A pair of sadhus sits(1) on the steps deeply engrossed(2) in a game of chess(3), the warm sunlight falling on their bent backs(4). No error(5)

5 At that time little did he knew(1) that one day donating blood(2) would become a life-long(3) commitment for him(4). No error(5)

6 The novel has suffered greatly(1) at the hands of critics(2) who insist in treating it as a moral(3) tract upon the wickedness of taking human life(4). No error(5)

7 I think I have(1) no other choice(2) but to sign the documents(3) on his behalf(4). No error(5)

8 A power shortage was attributed(1) to State government's decision(2) to supply electricity to farmers(3) at the cost of urban and industrial consumers(4). No error(5)

9 Hardly had our friend(1) begun to enquire about(2) her hour old call(3) that the phone was banged down(4). No error(5)

10 She proved beyond doubt(1) that she was one of best(2) things ever happened(3) to the idiot box(4). No error(5)

Look at the underlined part of each sentence. Below each sentence are given three possible substitutions for the underlined part. If one of them (a), (b) or (c) is better than the underlined part, that is your answer. If none of the substitutions improve the sentence, indicate (d) as your answer.

11. And so now he were the head

of an army, or rather the remains of an army

- (a) he was head
- (b) he headed
- (c) he was the head
- (d) no improvement

12 As far back as in the seventeenth century there had been certain doctors who had hypnotized their patients

- (a) As far back as
- (b) As far back as
- (c) As far back as into
- (d) no improvement

13 I think I was never in a much perfectly quiet country

- (a) more perfectly quiet country
- (b) more perfect quiet country
- (c) much more perfectly quiet country
- (d) no improvement

14 His greatest grief was when sheer physical exhaustion made him give up his active work

- (a) made him to give up
- (b) made him giving up
- (c) made him give away
- (d) no improvement

15 The professor rushed up to see what is the matter

- (a) what the matter was
- (b) what was the matter
- (c) what the matter were
- (d) no improvement

In each of the following sentences, a word has been underlined. For each underlined word, four choices or meanings are given. Choose the word nearest in meaning to the underlined part of each sentence.

16 She is deft at dealing with reporters

- (a) honest
- (b) skilful
- (c) lenient
- (d) strict

17 Life seemed grey after she had gone.

- (a) easy
- (b) depressing
- (c) pleasant
- (d) lonely

18. Stop being so juvenile!

- (a) arrogant
- (b) disobedient
- (c) faithful
- (d) childish

19. She had a decidedly murky past

- (a) strange
- (b) glorious
- (c) immoral
- (d) mysterious

20 The meeting broke up amid rowdy scenes

- (a) noisy
- (b) dramatic
- (c) historic
- (d) bloody

In each of the following sentences, a word has been underlined. For each underlined word, four choices are given. Choose the choice opposite in meaning to the underlined part of each sentence.

21 It was absurd of you to suggest such a thing

- (a) reasonable
- (b) timely
- (c) manly
- (d) brave

22 The king is still remembered for his benevolent rule

- (a) violent
- (b) greedy
- (c) spiteful
- (d) peaceful

23 All she cares about is her social life

- (a) values
- (b) neglects
- (c) hates
- (d) misses

24 The story was full of exaggerations

- (a) suggestions
- (b) proverbs
- (c) gossips
- (d) truth

25 Probity in public life has become a rare phenomenon

- (a) affectation
- (b) manipulation
- (c) complexity
- (d) conspiracy

In the following passage/sentences at certain points you are given a choice of three words—one of which is most appropriate. Choose the best word out of the three and fill in the blank spaces.

"At nightfall I return home and

26 (a) find (b) discover
(c) seek

my writing-room, and, divesting myself

27 (a) on
(b) off
(c) over

its threshold of my rustic garments, stained with mud and mire, I

28 (a) presume
(b) copy
(c) assume

courtly attire, and thus suitably clothed, enter within the ancient courts of ancient men, by whom, being

29. (a) cordially
(b) coldly

(c) carefully
welcomed, I am fed with the food that
alone is mine, and for which I was

- 30 (a) welcomed
(b) born
(c) known

and am not ashamed to hold

- 31 (a) debate
(b) discourse
(c) company

with them and inquire the motives of
them

- 32 (a) actions
(b) reflections
(c) plans

and these men in their humanity

- 33 (i) compensate
(f) jolt
(c) reply

to me and for the space of four hours I
felt no

- 34 (i) weakness
(b) sickness
(c) trouble

remember no trouble no longer tear
poverty no longer dread death, my
whole being is

- 35 (i) lost
(b) enlightened
(c) absorbed

in them

In the following questions, some
parts of the sentences have been
jumbled up. You are required to re-ar-
range these parts which are labelled P,
Q, R and S to produce the correct sen-
tence/sentences.

36 (P) And offers of purchase
came in a rush (Q) governments all over
the world woke (R) from now on suc-
cess followed each other rapidly (S) to
the value civil and military of the
aeroplane

37 (P) One cloud, however dis-
turbed his bliss (Q) his wife was his
constant companion (R) on his many
travels (S) and that was that he had no
children of his own

38 (P) In crystallizing (Q) he
loved to show that water (R) however
intimately they might be mixed with
it (S) excluded all foreign ingredients

39 (P) Devoted himself to
production and salesmanship, (Q) and
then (R) leaving the management of his
household to his wife (S) he was able to
set his business in order

40 (P) All these, like his theory of
floating bodies (Q) as a man who gave
the lead for enthusiasm and research in
astronomy (R) involved him in con-
troversy over and over again (S) today

we regard him as a pioneer

- 36 (a) R P S Q (b) R Q S P
(c) Q P R S (d) S R P Q

37. (a) P S Q R (b) S R Q P
(c) P R Q S (d) R S P Q

- 38 (a) Q S R P (b) S R P Q
(c) Q P S R (d) R P Q S

- 39 (a) S Q P R (b) P Q R S
(c) Q R S P (d) S Q R P

- 40 (a) P R S Q (b) Q R S P
(c) P Q S R (d) P R Q S

Read the following sentences and
put the most suitable word in the
blank spaces.

41 _____ the eve of his great vic-
tory, he detailed his plan of operations
to his generals

- (a) from (b) upon
(c) over (d) on

42 His funeral procession was
one of the most deeply _____ spec-
tacles of our age

- (a) moving (b) massive
(c) mourning
(d) remembering

43 From then on the conquest of
the air was only _____ matter of time

- (a) an (b) a
(c) the (d) any

44 He was _____ honest and
of an open and free nature

- (a) indeed (b) very
(c) fairly (d) certainly

45 He was not con-
cerned _____ abstract metaphysics
but with mankind and its conduct

- (a) by (b) without
(c) with (d) within

Read the following passage care-
fully and choose the most appropriate
answer to the questions listed below:

Not a character for which one could
feel deep love, he was too cold, too formal,
too remote for that. Rather one that com-
pelled distant admiration, and reverent
loyalty, a man whose every word one
treasured as a pearl of wisdom, but with
whom one could never dare to be familiar,
or aspire to call one's friend. That he had
human frailties his disciples well knew, for
it is recorded that on hearing thunder he
would change countenance or at night
would dress quickly, but the constant im-
pression he must have given was that of a
character so elevated by wisdom and the
practice of virtue as to stand aloof from the
common run of mankind

46 What was the most telling trait
of the person mentioned in the para-
graph?

- (a) his wisdom and virtue

- (b) his pride and learning
(c) his friendship and concern
for people
(d) his cynicism and spiritual
achievement

47 Did he suffer from any human
weakness?

- (a) no (b) not at all
(c) yes (d) very rarely

48 His personality compelled ?

- (a) no admiration
(b) instant admiration
(c) warm admiration
(d) reserved admiration

49 What was so special about the
character under reference?

- (a) his coldness towards his
friends
(b) his belief in his superiority
(c) his aloofness from common
people
(d) his fate to suffer alone

50 One of the following state-
ments is true

- (a) He behaved in a strange
manner to impress others
(b) For his disciples, he did not
suffer from any human
weakness
(c) He was warm hearted, infor-
mal and intimate with all
(d) He was not a person who could
invoke deep love for him

ANSWERS

- 1 (2) thought hard'
2 (1) 'Any attempt to sit in
judgement'
3 (4) 'the hills denuded of their green
cover by half'
4 (5) No error
5 (1) At that time little did he know
6 (3) who insist on treating it as a
moral'
7 (2) 'no choice'
8 (1) 'The power shortage was
attributed'
9 (4) 'when the phone was banged
down'
10 (3) 'things that ever happened'
11 (c) 12 (b) 13 (a)
14 (d) 15 (b) 16. (b)
17 (b) 18 (d) 19 (c)
20 (a) 21 (a) 22 (c)
23 (b) 24 (d) 25 (a)
26. (c) 27 (a) 28. (c)
29. (a) 30. (b) 31. (b)
32 (a) 33 (c) 34 (a)
35. (c) 36 (b) 37 (a)
38 (c) 39 (d) 40. (a)
41. (d) 42. (a) 43 (b)
44. (a) 45. (c) 46 (a)
47 (c) 48 (d) 49 (c)
50. (d)

Quantitative Aptitude

- 1 The sum of squares of first ten natural numbers is
(a) 375 (b) 385 (c) 475 (d) 485
- 2 If a language of natural numbers has a binary vocabulary of 0 and 1, then which one of the following strings represents the natural number 7?
(a) 11 (b) 101 (c) 110 (d) 111
- 3 The least number which must be subtracted from 6708 to make it exactly divisible by 9 is
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4
- 4 Which one of the following statements is *not* correct?
(a) If a is a rational number and b is irrational then $a + b$ is irrational
(b) The product of a non-zero rational number with an irrational number is always irrational
(c) Addition of any two rational numbers can be an integer
(d) Division of any two integers is an integer
- 5 The value of $\frac{10\sqrt{6}25}{\sqrt{6}25 - 0.5}$ is
(a) 125 (b) 0.125 (c) 1.25 (d) 12.5
- 6 The fundamental arithmetical operations on 2 recurring decimals can be performed directly without converting them to vulgar fractions
(a) only in addition and subtraction
(b) only in addition and multiplication
(c) only in addition, subtraction and multiplication
(d) in all the four arithmetical operations
- 7 If x teachers can examine y copies in z days working h hours per day, then t teachers will examine a copies working m hours per day in
(a) $\frac{zxyh}{tam}$ days (b) $\frac{zxah}{tym}$ days
(c) $\frac{ztah}{xym}$ days (d) $\frac{zxm}{tyh}$ days
- 8 If a person travels for a certain number of hours at a speed of x km/hour and for an equal number of hours at a speed of y km/hour, then his average speed for the whole journey must be
(a) the arithmetic mean of x and y
(b) the geometric mean of x and y
(c) the harmonic mean of x and y
(d) none of the above
- 9 Two trains with their speeds in the ratio 3 : 4 are going in opposite directions along parallel tracks. If each takes 3 seconds to cross a telegraph post, then the time taken by the trains to cross each other completely will be
(a) 3 sec (b) 4 sec (c) 7 sec (d) 21 sec
- 10 A group of workers accepted to do a piece of work in 25 days. If six of them did not turn up for the work and the remaining workers did the work in 40 days, then the original number of workers were
(a) 22 (b) 20 (c) 18 (d) 16
- 11 The manufacturer A of a certain item sells it to a wholesaler at a profit of 20% on his manufacturing cost. The wholesaler sells it to a retailer at a profit of 25% and the retailer sells it to a consumer at a profit of 20%. The price paid by the consumer over and above manufacturing cost will be
(a) 65% (b) 80% (c) 85% (d) 90%
- 12 The difference between simple interest and compound interest at yearly intervals, on Rs 3000 for 2 years at 6% is
(a) Rs 20.80 (b) Rs 15.80 (c) Rs 10.80 (d) Rs 9.80
- 13 Let Rs 300 be borrowed for b months. Then which one of the following will be the correct period of lending for Rs 400 in return, provided the rate of interest in both cases is the same?
(a) 4 months (b) 5 months
(c) $5\frac{1}{2}$ months (d) 6 months
- 14 If a sum of money placed at compound interest doubles itself in 5 years, then the same amount of money will be 8 times of itself in
(a) 25 years (b) 20 years
(c) 15 years (d) 10 years
- 15 If $A : B = 3 : 4$ and $B : C = 2 : 3$ then $A : B : C$ will be
(a) 3 : 4 : 6 (b) 3 : 4 : 12
(c) 4 : 3 : 6 (d) 6 : 4 : 3
- 16 The length of a pendulum varies inversely as the square of the number of beats it makes per minute. If a pendulum, 64 cm long, makes 27 beats per minute, then the length of the pendulum that makes 24 beats per minute is
(a) 91 cm (b) 85 cm (c) 81 cm (d) 71 cm
- 17 The greatest number that will divide 398, 436 and 542 leaving 7, 11 and 15 as remainders, respectively, is
(a) 16 (b) 17 (c) 18 (d) 19
- 18 Which one of the following statements is correct?
(a) If $x^6 + 1$ is divided by $x + 1$, then the remainder is -2
(b) If $x^6 + 1$ is divided by $x - 1$, then the remainder is 2
(c) If $x^6 + 1$ is divided by $x + 1$, then the remainder is 1
(d) If $x^6 + 1$ is divided by $x - 1$, then the remainder is -1
- 19 The number of composite numbers between 101 and 120 are
(a) 11 (b) 12 (c) 13 (d) 14
- 20 If the number 12×453 is divisible by 9, then the digit

at the x place is:

- (a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4

21. The value of:

$$\frac{(1.5)^3 + (4.7)^3 + (3.8)^3 - 3 \times 1.5 \times 4.7 \times 3.8}{(1.5)^2 + (4.7)^2 + (3.8)^2 - 1.5 \times 4.7 - 4.7 \times 3.8 - 1.5 \times 3.8}$$
 is:

- (a) 8 (b) 9 (c) 10 (d) 11

22. Consider the following statements:

- $x - 2$ is a factor of $x^3 - 3x^2 + 4x - 4$
- $x + 1$ is a factor of $2x^3 + 4x + 6$
- $x - 1$ is a factor of $x^6 - x^5 + x^4 - x^3 + x^2 - x + 1$

Of these statements

- (a) 1 and 2 are correct (b) 1, 2 and 3 are correct
(c) 2 and 3 are correct (d) 1 and 3 are correct

23. L.C.M. of 125, 175, 225 is:

- (a) 7875 (b) 7575 (c) 7075 (d) 1235

24. If $2^x \cdot 3^{2x} = 100$ (given $\log 2 = 0.3010$ and $\log 3 = 0.4771$), then the value of x is:

- (a) 1.49 (b) 1.59 (c) 1.69 (d) 1.79

25. If $\log_{10} a, \log_{10} b, \log_{10} c$ are in A.P. then a, b, c must be in:

- (a) A.P. (b) G.P. (c) H.P.
(d) None of the above

26. The smallest number which must be added to 803642 in order to obtain a multiple of 9 is:

- (a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4

27. The given table shows the bank transaction of Ram.

Month	June	July	August
Deposit (Rs.)	$2x + y + z$	$x + 2y + 3z$	$x + 4z$
Withdrawal (Rs.)	$x - y - z$	$x - 2y + 3z$	$2x - 3z$

His balance for the month of September is:

- (a) $2(3y + 4z)$ (b) $3(2y + 3z)$
(c) $2(3x + 4y)$ (d) $8x + 7z$

28. Simplified value of:

$$\frac{8.73 \times 8.73 \times 8.73 + 4.27 \times 4.27 \times 4.27}{8.73 \times 8.73 - 8.73 \times 4.27 + 4.27 \times 4.27}$$
 is:

- (a) 11 (b) 12 (c) 13 (d) 14

29. The factors of $x^2 + xy - 2xz - 2yz$ are:

- (a) $(x - y)(x + 2z)$ (b) $(x + y)(x - 2z)$
(c) $(x - y)(x - 2z)$ (d) $(x + y)(x + 2z)$

30. If $x^3 + ax - 28$ is exactly divisible by $x - 4$, then the value of 'a' is:

- (a) 23 (b) -23 (c) 9 (d) -9

31. If $kx^3 + 9x^2 + 4x - 10$ divided by $x + 3$ leaves a remainder 5, then the value of k will be:

- (a) 1 (b) 2 (c) -2 (d) -1

32. The HCF of $x^2 - 9, x^3 - 27$ and $x^2 - 8x + 15$ is:

- (a) $x - 3$ (b) $x + 3$ (c) $(x - 3)(x^2 + 3x + 9)$
(d) $(x - 3)(x + 3)(x + 5)(x^2 + 3x + 9)$

33. The LCM of the polynomials $x^3 + x^2 + x + 1$ and $x^3 - x^2 + x - 1$ is:

- (a) $x^2 + 1$ (b) $(x^2 - 1)(x + 1)$
(c) $(x^2 + 1)(x^2 - 1)$ (d) $(x^2 + 1)(x - 1)$

34. $f(x), g(x)$ are two polynomials with integer co-efficient such that their HCF is 1 and LCM is $(x^2 - 4)(x^4 - 1)$. If $f(x) = x^3 - 2x^2 - x + 2$, then $g(x)$ is:

- (a) $x^3 - 2x^2 + x + 2$ (b) $x^3 - 2x^2 + x - 2$
(c) $x^3 + 2x^2 + x + 2$ (d) $x^3 - 2x^2 - x - 2$

35. If $x - \frac{1}{x} = 5$, then $x^3 - \frac{1}{x^3}$ equals:

- (a) 125 (b) 130 (c) 135 (d) 140

36. The expression $\frac{5 - x}{x^2 - x - 20}$, when simplified equals

- (a) $\frac{1}{x + 4}$ (b) $\frac{1}{x - 4}$ (c) $-\frac{1}{x + 4}$ (d) $\frac{1}{x - 5}$

37. The value of k for which the system of equations $kx + 2y = 5, 3x + y = 1$, has no solution, is

- (a) 5 (b) $\frac{2}{3}$ (c) 6 (d) $\frac{3}{2}$

38. Mohan gets 3 marks for each correct sum and loses 2 marks for each wrong sum. He attempts 30 sums and obtains 40 marks. The number of sums solved correctly is:

- (a) 10 (b) 15 (c) 20 (d) 25

39. If x satisfies $|x - 1| + |x - 2| + |x - 3| \geq 6$, then

- (a) $0 \leq x \leq 4$ (b) $x \leq 0$ or $x \geq 4$
(c) $x \leq -2$ or $x \geq 4$ (d) $x \geq -2$ or $x \leq 4$

40. A lady has only 25 paise and 50 paise coins in her purse. She has a total of 120 coins and the total amount is Rs 50. The number of coins of each type in her purse is respectively.

- (a) 90, 30 (b) 60, 60 (c) 40, 80 (d) 70, 50

41. The largest angle of a triangle is twice the sum of the other two and the smallest one is one-fourth of the largest. The angles are:

- (a) $120^\circ, 40^\circ, 20^\circ$ (b) $120^\circ, 30^\circ, 30^\circ$
(c) $90^\circ, 45^\circ, 45^\circ$ (d) $90^\circ, 60^\circ, 30^\circ$

42. It costs Rs 10 a kilometer to fly and Rs 2 a kilometer to drive. If one travels 200 km covering x km of the distance by flying and the rest by driving, then the cost of the trip is:

- (a) Rs 2,000 (b) Rs 24,000
(c) Rs $(8x + 400)$ (d) Rs $(12x + 400)$

43. For the equation $|x|^2 + |x| - 6 = 0$

- (a) there is only one root (b) the sum of the roots is 1
(c) the sum of the roots is 0
(d) the product of the roots is 4

44. If α and β are the roots of the equation $x^2 + px + q = 0$, then the equation whose roots are $\alpha^2 + \alpha\beta$ and $\beta^2 + \alpha\beta$ is:

- (a) $x^2 + p^2x + p^2q = 0$ (b) $x^2 - q^2x + p^2q = 0$
(c) $x^2 + q^2x + p^2q = 0$ (d) $x^2 - p^2x + p^2q = 0$

45. If the area of an equilateral triangle is $36\sqrt{3} \text{ cm}^2$, then the side of the triangle is:

- 255

$$x \times 3010 + 2x \times 4771 = 2 \times 1 \quad \log mn = \log m + \log n$$

$$12552x = 2 \Rightarrow x = \frac{2}{12552} \quad \log m^n = n \log m$$

$$= 1.59 \quad \log_{10} 10 = 1$$

- 25 (b) $\log_{10} a, \log_{10} b, \log_{10} c$ are in A.P.

$$\log_{10} b - \log_{10} a = \log_{10} c - \log_{10} b \Rightarrow \log_{10} \frac{b}{a} = \log_{10} \frac{c}{b}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{b}{a} = \frac{c}{b} \text{ which is true if } a, b, c \text{ are in G.P.}$$

- 26 (d) $8 + 0 + 3 + 6 + 4 + 2 = 23$

The reqd smallest no. = 4 as 27 is a multiple of 9

- 27 (b) Total deposit = $4x + 3y + 8z$

$$\text{Total withdrawal} = 4x - 3y - z$$

$$\therefore \text{Reqd balance} = 4x + 3y + 8z - 4x + 3y + z = 6y + 9z = 3(2y + 3z)$$

28. (c) $\frac{a^3 + b^3}{a^2 - ab + b^2} = a + b = 873 + 427 = 130$

- 29 (b) $x^2 + xy - 2xz - 2yz = x(x + y) - 2z(x + y)$
 $= (x + y)(x - 2z)$

- 30 (d) Let $p(x) = x^3 + ax - 28$
 $p(x)$ is divisible by $x - 4 \therefore p(4) = 0$

$$4^3 + a \times 4 - 28 = 0 \Rightarrow a = -9$$

- 31 (b) Let $p(x) = kx^3 + 9x^2 + 4x - 10$ when $p(x)$ is divided by $x + 3$, $R = p(-3)$ $R = 5$ (given)

$$k(-3)^3 + 9(-3)^2 + 4(-3) - 10 = 5 \Rightarrow k = 2$$

32. (a) $x^2 - 9 = (x - 3)(x + 3)$, $x^3 - 27 = (x - 3)(x^2 + 3x + 9)$

$$x^2 - 8x + 15 = (x - 3)(x - 5) \therefore \text{H.C.F.} = x - 3$$

33. (c) $x^3 + x^2 + x + 1 = x^2(x + 1) + (x + 1) = (x + 1)(x^2 + 1)$
 $x^3 - x^2 + x - 1 = x^2(x - 1) + (x - 1) = (x - 1)(x^2 + 1)$
 $\therefore \text{L.C.M.} = (x^2 + 1)(x + 1)(x - 1) = (x^2 + 1)(x^2 - 1)$

- 34 (c) $g(x) = \frac{\text{L.C.M.} \times \text{H.C.F.}}{f(x)} = \frac{(x^2 - 4)(x^4 - 1) \times 1}{x^3 - 2x^2 - x + 2}$

$$= \frac{(x - 2)(x + 2)(x^2 - 1)(x^2 + 1)}{x^2(x - 2)(x - 2)}$$

$$= \frac{(x - 2)(x + 2)(x^2 - 1)(x^2 + 1)}{(x^2 - 1)(x - 2)}$$

$$= (x + 2)(x^2 + 1) = x^3 + 2x^2 + x + 2$$

- 35 (d) $x^3 - \frac{1}{x} = (x - \frac{1}{x})^3 + 3 \times x \times \frac{1}{x} (x - \frac{1}{x})$

$$= 5^3 + 3 \times 1 \times 5 = 140$$

- 36 (c) $\frac{5 - x}{x^2 - x - 20} = \frac{5 - x}{x^2 - 5x + 4x - 20}$

$$= \frac{5 - x}{x(x - 5) + 4(x - 5)}$$

$$= -\frac{(x - 5)}{(x - 5)(x + 4)} = -\frac{1}{x + 4}$$

37. (c) The system has no sol if $\frac{a_1}{a_2} = \frac{b_1}{b_2}$ $\frac{k}{3} = \frac{2}{1} \Rightarrow k = 6$

- 38 (c) Let the no. of sums solved correctly be x

$$\therefore \text{No. of sums solved incorrectly} = 30 - x$$

$$\text{A.T.S. } 3x - 2(30 - x) = 40 \Rightarrow x = 20$$

- 39 (b) If $x \leq 0$, $x - 1 < 0$, $x - 2 < 0$, $x - 3 < 0$ If $x < 0$
 $|x| = -x$

$$\therefore -(x - 1) + (-x + 2) + (-x + 3) = -3x + 6$$

which is ≥ 6 for $x \leq 0$

$$\text{If } x \geq 4 \quad \therefore |x - 1| = x - 1, |x - 2| = x - 2,$$

$$x - 4 \geq 0, |x - 3| = x - 3 \quad \text{If } x \geq 0$$

$$x - 1 + x - 2 + x - 3 = 3x - 6 \geq 6 \quad \therefore |x| = x$$

which is true for $x \geq 4$

40. (c) Let the no. of 25 paise coins be x and that of 50 paise coins be y

$$\therefore x + y = 120 \dots (i)$$

$$25x + 50y = 5000 \text{ or } x + 2y = 200 \dots (ii)$$

$$\text{Solving (i) and (ii) we get } x = 40, y = 80$$

- 41 (b) Let the largest angle be $x^\circ \therefore$ Smallest angle = $\frac{x}{4}$

$$\text{A.T.S. } x = 2\left(\frac{x}{4} + y\right) \text{ where } y \text{ is the third angle}$$

$$\therefore y = \frac{x}{4} \quad x + \frac{x}{4} + \frac{x}{4} = 180^\circ \text{ (Sum of } \angle\text{s of a } \Delta)$$

$$\therefore x = 120^\circ, \frac{x}{4} = 30^\circ, \frac{x}{4} = 30^\circ$$

or we can also find the correct answer by inspection

- 42 (c) $10x + 2(200 - x) = 400 + 8x$

- 43 (c) $|x|^2 + 3|x| - 2|x| - 6 = 0 \Rightarrow |x|(|x| + 3) - 2(|x| + 3) = 0$

$$\text{or } (|x| + 3)(|x| - 2) = 0$$

$$\text{Either } |x| + 3 = 0 \text{ or } |x| - 2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow |x| = -3 \text{ which is impossible}$$

$$\therefore |x| - 2 = 0 \Rightarrow |x| = 2$$

$$\text{or } x = \pm 2 \therefore \text{Sum of roots} = 2 - 2 = 0$$

(Modulus of a no. is never negative)

44. (d) $\alpha + \beta = -p$, $\alpha\beta = q$, Sum of roots = $\alpha^2 + \alpha\beta + \beta^2 + \alpha\beta$
 $= (\alpha + \beta)^2 - p^2$

$$p = (\alpha^2 + \alpha\beta)(\beta^2 + \alpha\beta) = \alpha\beta(\alpha + \beta)^2 = qp^2$$

$$\therefore \text{Reqd equ } x^2 - p^2x + p^2q = 0$$

$$\text{Equ is } x^2 - (\text{Sum of roots})x + p = 0$$

- 45 (d) Area of an equilateral $\Delta = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}(\text{side})^2 = 36\sqrt{3}$

$$\therefore (\text{side})^2 = 36\sqrt{3} \times \frac{4}{\sqrt{3}} = 144 = 12^2 \therefore \text{side} = 12 \text{ cm}$$

46. (a) $x^{2/3} + x^{1/3} = 2$ Put $x^{1/3} = y \therefore y^2 + y - 2 = 0$

$$y = -2, y = 1 \quad x^{1/3} = y \Rightarrow (y + 2)(y - 1) = 0$$

$$x^{1/3} = -2 \quad x^{1/3} = 1 \quad y + 2 \neq 0$$

$$\therefore x = 1 \quad \text{or } y - 1 = 0$$

$$\therefore x = (-2)^3 = -8 \quad \text{Sol set is } \{-8, 1\}$$

(On cubing)

47. (d) $2^{x+3} \cdot 4^{2x-5} = 2^{3x+7} \Rightarrow 2^{x+3} \cdot (2^2)^{2x-5} = 2^{3x+7}$
 $2^{x+3} \cdot 2^{4x-10} = 2^{3x+7} \Rightarrow 2^{x+3+4x-10} = 2^{3x+7} \Rightarrow 2^{5x-7} = 2^{3x+7}$

$$\therefore 5x - 7 = 3x + 7 \Rightarrow x = 7$$

48. (c) $\left(\frac{x^a}{x^b}\right)^{a^2+ab+b^2} \cdot \left(\frac{x^b}{x^c}\right)^{b^2+bc+c^2} \cdot \left(\frac{x^c}{x^a}\right)^{c^2+ca+a^2}$

$$= (x^{a-b})^{a^2+ab+b^2} \cdot (x^{b-c})^{b^2+bc+c^2} \cdot (x^{c-a})^{c^2+ca+a^2}$$

$$= x^{a^3-b^3} \cdot x^{b^3-c^3} \cdot x^{c^3-a^3}$$

$$= x^{a^3-b^3-c^3+c^3-a^3} = x^0 = 1$$

49. (a) $\{5, 6\}$ is an element of set. It is not a subset of A.

50. (c)

GENERAL AWARENESS

The questions given below have been selected from various Banking Service Recruitment Board examinations (for Bank Probationary Officers) and Railway Recruitment Board examinations (for Clerks etc.)

- 1 'Pulitzer' prizes are awarded to Americans for excellence in
 - (a) films
 - (b) social work
 - (c) ☒ journalism
 - (d) medicine
- 2 The term 'Fourth Estate' refers to
 - (a) underdeveloped countries
 - (b) judiciary
 - (c) executive
 - (d) ☒ The press
- 3 Michael Ferreira has distinguished himself in
 - (a) Hockey
 - (b) Football
 - (c) Golf
 - (d) ☒ Billiards
- 4 If the President of India wants to resign, he should address his resignation letter to the
 - (a) Prime Minister
 - (b) Chief Justice
 - (c) ☒ Vice-President
 - (d) Speaker of the Lok Sabha
- 5 'MODVAT' is the name of a
 - (a) Book
 - (b) Movie
 - (c) tribal group
 - (d) ☒ tax imposed on product
- 6 The International Court of Justice is in
 - (a) America
 - (b) England
 - (c) France
 - (d) ☒ Netherlands
- 7 The 2000 Paralympics (Olympic Games for disabled) will be held in
 - (a) Tokyo
 - (b) Berlin
 - (c) Munich
 - (d) ☒ Sydney
- 8 Who is known as the 'Lion of the Punjab'?
 - (a) ☒ Bhagat Singh
 - (b) Jagat Guru
 - (c) Lala Lajpat Rai
 - (d) Sukhdev
- 9 Mount Abu in Rajasthan is famous for the Jain Temples known as
 - (a) ☒ Abu Temples
 - (b) Ranakpur Temples
 - (c) Dilwara Temples
 - (d) Marble Temples
- 10 In which State is the 'Vivekananda Rock' situated?
 - (a) ☒ Tamil Nadu
 - (b) Karnataka
 - (c) Kerala
 - (d) Andhra Pradesh
- 11 The First World War broke out in the year
 - (a) ☒ 1914
 - (b) 1915
 - (c) 1918
 - (d) 1920
- 12 'Dermatology' is the study of
 - (a) Genus
 - (b) ☒ skin and its diseases
 - (c) eye and its diseases
 - (d) ear and its diseases
13. 'KLM' is the airlines of
 - (a) Germany
 - (b) ☒ Holland
 - (c) Thailand
 - (d) England
14. Abul Fazl was a famous Court Historian during the reign of.
 - (a) ☒ Akbar
 - (b) Babur
 - (c) Shah Jehan
 - (d) Jahangir
- 15 The capital city of Belgium is
 - (a) Budapest
 - (b) ☒ Brussels
 - (c) Bucharest
 - (d) Bundt City
- 16 The time difference between IST and GMT is
 - (a) ☒ 5½ hrs
 - (b) 8½ hrs
 - (c) 12½ hrs
 - (d) 9 hrs
- 17 Who is the Director of the famous film *Jurassic Park*?
 - (a) ☒ Stephen Spielberg
 - (b) J Morley
 - (c) John Berry
 - (d) Shan Michael
- 18 *Shakti Sthal* is the name given to
 - (a) Samadhi of Sanjay Gandhi
 - (b) ☒ Samadhi of Indira Gandhi
 - (c) Samadhi of Feroz Gandhi
- 19 A music concert of the famous American Composer Yanni was held in which of the following cities in India during March 1997?
 - (a) New Delhi
 - (b) Mumbai
 - (c) Calcutta
 - (d) ☒ Agra
- 20 It has been decided recently that all aircraft in India should have to install on board a Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System (TACAS). The decision is taken by the
 - (a) National Airport Authorities of India
 - (b) ☒ Directorate General of Civil Aviation
 - (c) Commercial Pilots' Guild
 - (d) Indian Airlines
- 21 When the door of an operating refrigerator is opened the temperature of the room will
 - (a) decrease
 - (b) remain unchanged
 - (c) fall down immediately
 - (d) ☒ increase
- 22 Which of the following terms is not associated with computers?
 - (a) ☒ Frankland reaction
 - (b) Data base
 - (c) Binary
 - (d) Windows
- 23 Which of the following is not a computer language?
 - (a) ☒ I B M
 - (b) FORTRON
 - (c) PASCAL
 - (d) COBOL
- 24 Bertie Ahern, who was in the news recently, is newly elected
 - (a) Prime Minister of Fiji
 - (b) President of Namibia
 - (c) President of Tanzania
 - (d) ☒ Prime Minister of Ireland
- 25 Ageing in human beings is caused by disappearance of which of the following glands?
 - (a) Thyroid
 - (b) ☒ Thymus
 - (c) Pituitary
 - (d) Parathyroid
- 26 India is planning to purchase Super Dvora MK-II extra fast attack craft for use in Indian Navy from
 - (a) USA
 - (b) Russia
 - (c) France
 - (d) ☒ Israel
- 27 Which of the following films bagged 12 Oscar nominations announced recently?
 - (a) ☒ The English Patient
 - (b) Fargo
 - (c) Shine
 - (d) A Chef in Love
- 28 "Kofi Annan endorses Indian view on Kashmir issue" was the headline in a leading newspaper in February 1997. Annan referred in this headline is
 - (a) ☒ the Secretary General of U N O
 - (b) Prime Minister of Israel
 - (c) President of Peru
 - (d) Chairman of the World Bank

29 Which of the following statements is correct about the Winchester disk, a term associated with Computer System?

- (a) It is a name of micro-computer whose main application is for personal use
- (b) It is a language used to express programmes
- (c) It is the name of a CPU on a chip
- (d) ☒ It is a compact high capacity hard disk covered in a sealed cartridge

30 Binary Codes as used in computer sciences are codes made up of which of the following two numbers?

- (a) 0 and 9 (b) 1 and 3 (c) ☒ 0 and 1 (d) 9 and 1

31 Which of the following is not true about the 1991 census data released recently?

- (A) ☒ India is set to become the largest populous country by 2010.
- (B) India's population will jump from 846 million in 1991 to over 1 billion by the year 2000
- (C) Proportion of older population aged 60 years and above has increased to 6.8 per cent
- (a) Only A is not true (b) Only B is not true
- (c) Only C is not true (d) A & C both are not true

32 The fifth Indian Institute of Management (IIM) is going to start functioning at which of the following places in near future?

- (a) Mumbai (b) Jaipur
- (c) ☒ Kozhikode (d) Hyderabad

33 As per the figures published recently, the food grain stock with the government of India was to the tune of about how many million tonnes in October 1996?

- (a) 27 (b) ☒ 21 (c) 18 (d) 37

34 Who amongst the following is the author of the book, The Price of A Dream?

- (a) Jitendra Kohli (b) Kurt Eichenwald
- (c) ☒ David Bornstein (d) James J Darr

35 The 21st All India Konkani Parishad meeting was held at which of the following places?

- (a) Pune (b) Panaji
- (c) Nagpur (d) Mumbai

36 The annual World Economic Forum Summit was held recently at which of the following places?

- (a) New York (b) Tokyo
- (c) ☒ Davos (d) Colombo

37 Which of the following countries won the final of the triangular cricket series held in Durban in February 1997?

- (a) India (b) Zimbabwe
- (c) ☒ South Africa (d) New Zealand

38 As per the reports published in the newspapers, the government of India is planning to open which of the following power sectors for private investors?

- (a) ☒ Hydro-electric (b) Gas-based power projects
- (c) Nuclear power (d) Solar power

39 Who has written the book Courtyards of My Childhood: A Memoir?

- (a) ☒ Kamola Chatterjee (b) Kamla Markandeya
- (c) Shobha De (d) Tabish Khair

40 Citrus fruits are considered a rich source of which of the following vitamins?

- (a) Vitamin A (b) Vitamin B
- (c) ☒ Vitamin C (d) Vitamin D

41 Arjun Puruskars are given for excellence in which of the following fields?

- (a) Science and Technology (b) ☒ Sports
- (c) Social Service (d) Medical Science

42 As per the figure released by the Central Statistical Organisation in January 1997, the real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1995-96 grew by

- (a) 6.5% (b) ☒ 7.1% (c) 8.3% (d) 9%

43 India has decided to purchase nuclear reactors from which of the following countries?

- (a) USA (b) France
- (c) ☒ Russia (d) United Kingdom

44 Which of the following players won the 26th Junior National Chess championship held at Thrissur recently?

- (a) Sachidanand Soman (b) J V Ramana
- (c) K Sasikiran (d) ☒ Abhijit Kunte

45 Which of the following books is not written by Mrs Enid Blyton, the famous British writer whose birth centenary was celebrated in 1997?

- (a) ☒ It Takes A Village (b) Noddy
- (c) Mr Galliano's Circus
- (d) The Mystery of Burnt Cottage

46 Why was Borge Ousland, a Norwegian explorer, recently in the news?

- (a) He has taken over as the Ambassador of Norway to India
- (b) ☒ He became the first person to walk across the Antarctic continent alone and unsupported
- (c) He has explored a new planet in the sky named as Borge
- (d) He was recently on a visit to India and was appointed honorary advisor to the Department of Agricultural Technology of India

47 Which of the following is the name of the American firm which designed DOS very much in use these days?

- (a) ☒ Microsoft (b) Post
- (c) Intel (d) Cyberspace

48 Which of the following artists got the Deshikotama award from Vishwa Bharti University recently?

- (a) Bhupen Hazarika (b) Lata Mangeshkar
- (c) ☒ Dev Anand (d) Dilip Kumar

49 The scientists of which of the following countries have developed Oral Cholera Vaccine, an animal trial of which was shown recently?

- (a) ☒ India (b) United Kingdom
- (c) Russia (d) France

50 Mr Nursultan Nazarbaev who was on an official visit to India recently is

- (a) President of Portugal
- (b) President of Malaysia
- (c) Prime Minister of Israel
- (d) ☒ President of Kazakhstan

51 How many crores of rupees are proposed for laying of new rail lines in the Railway Budget 1997-98?

- (a) 200 (b) 300 (c) ☒ 400 (d) 500

52 Who amongst the following is the author of the book, Men are From Mars, Women are From Venus?

- (a) ☒ John Gray (b) Daniel Goleman
- (c) Frederick Forsyth (d) John Grisham

53 "Chotta Byte" a programme being telecast on Zee TV is a:

- (a) Soap Opera (b) Detective Serial
- (c) ☒ Comedy Serial
- (d) Programme on computer education

54 Which of the following represents the approximate number of applicants in millions on live registers of the employment exchange as on July 1996 (Data released in

February 1997)?

- (a) 20 (b) 25 (c) 30 (d) 37

55. The Fiscal deficit for 1996-97 was how many per cent of the GDP?

- (a) 6.5 (b) 5.5 (c) 5 (d) 4.5

56. Who has recently launched a new political party Lok Shakti?

- (a) Harcharan Singh Brar (b) Rajesh Pilot
(c) Kamal Nath (d) Ramkrishna Hegde

57. What is the proposed limit (Finance Bill 1997-98) of payment of gratuity to eligible employees?

- (a) 2.5 lakh (b) 2 lakh (c) 1.5 lakh (d) 1 lakh

58. Which of the following defines the role of a compiler in a computer?

- (a) It is a programme which changes a programming language into a machine code
(b) It helps in deciding the colour combination of printed matter in colour monitors
(c) It is the device which helps in storage of data in a particular area
(d) The compiler is used to link various computers in a local network

59. Which of the following States is famous for its beautiful sea beaches and is a main attraction for tourists?

- (a) Gujarat (b) Andhra Pradesh
(c) Tamil Nadu (d) Goa

60. Euro, the currency proposed to be floated by European Community countries, will be launched on

- (a) January 1, 1998 (b) January 1, 1999
(c) January 15, 1998 (d) January 15, 1999

61. Who amongst the following is the author of the book A Matter of Time?

- (a) Nayantara Sehgal (b) Shashi Deshpande
(c) Shobha De (d) Anita Desai

62. India has recently signed an agreement to purchase Sukhoi fighter planes from which of the following countries?

- (a) Japan (b) Germany (c) Russia (d) France

63. Why was the distinguished educationist Tahir Mahmood in the news recently?

- (a) He has taken over as the Minister of State of Education
(b) He was honoured by the President of India for his distinguished services
(c) He is the Chairman of the reconstituted National Commission for Minorities
(d) He will be our new High Commissioner to Britain

64. Which of the following is not a radioactive material?

- (a) Uranium (b) Sodium
(c) Plutonium (d) Thorium

65. Which of the following organisations gives the Kalinga prize?

- (a) UNESCO (b) CSIR
(c) Department of Science and Technology
(d) Ministry of Welfare

66. Which of the following States has the lowest literacy rate among women in India?

- (a) Tamil Nadu (b) Rajasthan
(c) Maharashtra (d) Bihar

67. Binda Din Maharaj is a maestro of which of the following classical dance forms?

- (a) Manipuri (b) Kathak
(c) Mohiniattam (d) Kathakali

68. Khovar and Sohrai are the names of

- (a) two nomadic tribes in Meghalaya
(b) a pair of male and female tigers in Corbett National Park
(c) two brands of local-made liquor so far popular in Haryana, now banned
(d) wall paintings done with mud and hair combs by tribal women in Bihar

69. Mrs. M.S. Subbulakshmi is well-known for her performance in which of the following?

- (a) Odissi (b) Bharatnatyam
(c) Hindustani Vocal (d) Carnatic Vocal

70. As per the Million Wells Scheme (MWS) currently under practice, a farmer from which of the following categories can avail the benefit of open wells for irrigation purpose?

- (a) Any small and marginal farmer amongst SC/ST
(b) A small and marginal farmer inhabited in the tribal belt
(c) Any small and marginal farmer below the poverty line
(d) Any small and marginal farmer

71. The US-based Cogentrix Company was in the news recently for setting up a project in Karnataka related to which of the following?

- (a) Steel Production (b) Power Generation
(c) Overbridge Construction
(d) Entertainment TV Channel

72. Mr Renato Ruggiero is the Director General of which of the following international organisations?

- (a) ASEAN (b) WTO (c) LC (d) CIS

73. Which of the following is the latest addition to the earlier G-7 group of countries, to make it G-8 at present?

- (a) China (b) Singapore
(c) Russia (d) South Korea

74. About what per cent of people in India still live below the poverty line?

- (a) 19% (b) 10% (c) 15% (d) 26%

75. Which of the following food items is not a source of Vitamin C?

- (a) Tomato (b) Milk (c) Carrot (d) Mango

76. The currency of Saudi Arabia is

- (a) Dinar (b) Dollar (c) Kionei (d) Rial

77. A super computer developed in India specifically for using it in the Light Combat Aircraft is known as

- (a) LEAP (b) PARAM (c) PACE (d) GATI

78. "Apsara", which was in the news recently for completing 40 years, is the name of India's first

- (a) nuclear reactor (b) helicopter
(c) ground battle tank (d) railway locomotive

79. The historic Hyderi House in Calcutta is associated with the name of a great leader who spent days there during August-September 1947, fasting and praying for communal harmony. The leader referred to here was

- (a) Khudiram Bose (b) Subhash Chandra Bose
(c) Mahatma Gandhi (d) Mohd Ali Jinnah
(e) Ram Mohan Roy

80. Following a recent discussion held at New Delhi, India agreed with which of the following countries to soon resolve the Ganga water sharing issue?

- (a) Bhutan (b) Nepal
(c) Bangladesh (d) Pakistan

81. Who amongst the following is the chairman of the Insurgency Regulatory Authority (IRA) recently set up by the government?

- (a) N. Vaghul (b) M. Rangachary
(c) S. Nadkarni (d) G.V. Ramakrishna
82. Which of the following is the headquarters of the newly established railway zone "East Coast Railway"?
(a) Vishakhapatnam (b) Calcutta
(c) Hyderabad (d) Bhubaneswar
83. Numismatics is the study of:
(a) insects (b) numbers
(c) coins (d) stamps
84. Which of the following statements is not true about the new food subsidy scheme of the government of India which came into existence on 26th January 1992?
(A) 10 kg of foodgrain will be given every month to those who live below poverty line
(B) About 30 million households will be benefited by the scheme
(C) The food will be distributed through public distributed system
(a) Only A (b) Only B
(c) Only C (d) Only A & B
85. Which of the following organisations is being merged with its parent organisation Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India Ltd (ICICI)?
(a) Industrial Development Bank of India
(b) Export Credit & Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd (ECGC)
(c) Unit Trust of India (UTI) (d) SCICI
86. Which of the following statements about the Ninth Five-Year Plan of India is not correct?
(A) The size of the plan would be about Rs 13,250 crore
(B) It estimates a 7% growth rate during the plan period
(C) It is expected that the domestic saving would grow at about 26.2%
(d) Only A (b) Only B
(c) Only C (d) Only A & C
87. Who amongst the following social workers has launched an anti-corruption movement and was on a fast for quite a few days in December 1996?
(a) Ms Medha Patkar (b) Sundarlal Bahuguna
(c) Baba Amte (d) Anna Hazare
88. India has recently made a historical agreement for 30 years with which of the following countries pertaining to the sharing of the water of a main river of the country?
(a) Nepal (b) China
(c) Bangladesh (d) Bhutan
89. Which of the following members of Parliament has been elected as the new chief of the Indian Olympic Association?
(a) Madhavrao Scindia (b) Suresh Kalmadi
(c) Rajesh Pilot (d) Indrajit Gupta
90. The accumulated losses of the 196 Regional Rural Banks (RRB's) have been estimated at:
(a) Rs 12000 crore (b) Rs 14000 crore
(c) Rs 15500 crore (d) Rs 17000 crore
91. Which of the following States has taken for the first time a loan of Rs 10,000 crore directly from the World Bank?
(a) Maharashtra (b) Andhra Pradesh
(c) Bihar (d) West Bengal
- the following: Ela Bhatt is a name reckoned with which of the
(a) S.C.R.L.S?
(c) Social organised Women Labour
alism

- (c) Classical Dance (d) Sports
93. Who discovered the blood groups of man?
(a) Edward Jenner (b) Larven
(c) Karl Landsteiner (d) William Harvey
94. The chief constituent of gobar gas is:
(a) Carbon dioxide (b) Acetylene
(c) Ethylene (d) Methane
95. Which one of the following diseases is genetically linked?
(a) Epilepsy (b) AIDS
(c) Colour-blindness (d) Leucoderma
96. Which one of the following represents a chemical change?
(a) Evaporation of alcohol
(b) Sublimation of iodine
(c) Heating a platinum wire in a bunsen flame
(d) Heating of mercuric oxide power
97. A person climbing the hill bends forward in order to:
(a) avoid slipping (b) increase speed
(c) reduce fatigue (d) increase stability
98. The most important function of perspiration is to:
(a) get rid of the body wastes
(b) regulate the body temperature
(c) regulate the body water supply
(d) lubricate the epithelial tissue
99. A small weight put on a pressure cooker increases the pressure of the steam because:
(a) it is air-tight
(b) area of contact is very small
(c) density of metal is very high
(d) pressure builds up irrespective of the weight placed
100. Anaemia is caused in man due to the deficiency of:
(a) Folic acid (b) Vitamin A
(c) Vitamin B-12 (d) None of these

ANSWERS

1. (c)	2. (d)	3. (d)	4. (c)	5. (d)
6. (d)	7. (d)	8. (c)	9. (c)	10. (a)
11. (a)	12. (b)	13. (b)	14. (a)	15. (b)
16. (a)	17. (a)	18. (b)	19. (d)	20. (b)
21. (d)	22. (a)	23. (a)	24. (d)	25. (b)
26. (d)	27. (a)	28. (a)	29. (d)	30. (c)
31. (a)	32. (c)	33. (b)	34. (c)	35. (b)
36. (c)	37. (c)	38. (a)	39. (a)	40. (c)
41. (b)	42. (b)	43. (c)	44. (d)	45. (a)
46. (b)	47. (a)	48. (c)	49. (a)	50. (d)
51. (c)	52. (a)	53. (d)	54. (d)	55. (c)
56. (d)	57. (a)	58. (a)	59. (d)	60. (b)
61. (b)	62. (c)	63. (c)	64. (b)	65. (a)
66. (b)	67. (b)	68. (d)	69. (d)	70. (a)
71. (b)	72. (b)	73. (c)	74. (d)	75. (b)
76. (d)	77. (d)	78. (a)	79. (c)	80. (c)
81. (b)	82. (d)	83. (c)	84. (b)	85. (d)
86. (a)	87. (d)	88. (c)	89. (b)	90. (d)
91. (b)	92. (a)	93. (c)	94. (d)	95. (c)
96. (a)	97. (d)	98. (b)	99. (b)	100. (a)

Corrections

Sept '97 issue — Pages 169-172

The correct answers to Q. 18, 56 and 65 are:
(d), (b) and (c) respectively.

The mistakes are regretted.

—Editor.

CONTEST WINNING ENTRIES

Our Education System



Readers from all parts of India and with different backgrounds responded to our competition on education. Once again, we were impressed by the quality of responses of our readers. Students from different age groups wrote to us about a system that touches everyday of their lives. How far does it shape character? How does it affect all of us?

Such competitions give young people a chance to express themselves. We believe that it represents a cross section of honest thoughts from across the country. Read on to know what our readers think about the education and the system that we take for granted. If your entry does not find place here, check out our subsequent issues in which we will feature some selected responses.

1

Cash Prize
Rs 1000



Hafiz Karim is studying in Regional Engineering College in Calicut in Kerala. He likes to play chess and football.

During my first semester of the engineering college to my great astonishment I met peers who had chosen their field of study for reasons other than their interest in the field. That I think was the first drawback where people studied subjects in which they had no interest in. But more important is another aspect technical education in the country lays too much stress on the head but not on one's heart. The lopsided development produces engineers who are morally destitute and bankrupt. That is why we have come to regard the development process as something mechanical, not as something which helps people live a better life.

I found that in engineering, any attempt to think differently or to go beyond the syllabus is seen as sacrilege by the teachers. It has become extremely passive and robotic, bound by what is written in the syllabus. It is not creative and does not increase knowledge or encourage one to think of new ways

of doing things. We follow outdated books.

But let me not convey the feeling of helplessness and outright condemnation. On the brighter side my college has promoted the feeling of national integrity and brotherhood. There are students from all parts of the country and this unites us even though we belong to different backgrounds. I treasure the moments spent with my peers and mentors. We have great facilities for work and play. Whatever the drawbacks of the system, let me say that a ray of light still exists in a wall of darkness. We shall overcome.

2

Cash Prize
Rs 750



Prema Pawar is the daughter of an army officer. She has studied in many schools due to her father's transferable job and is now in Wadia College in Pune. Her hobbies are reading, painting and writing poems.

Due to frequent transfers of my father, I studied in nearly a dozen schools, at first in convents and later in Kendriya Vidyalayas. There was a world of a difference between the two. At the KVs, the teachers were slack and negligent. They had a

chalta hai attitude and we had to often remind them of their class timings. The students were not too keen to pursue academics.

Some teachers taught with their mouths full of paan and would spit all over the classroom walls. The knowledge of most of them was limited. Corruption and bribery were rampant. The MLA's ward got a preference for admission irrespective of his marks and then proceeded to make a nuisance of himself, bullying everyone, eve-teasing and picking up fights. Perhaps the school was preparing us for the reality that we would face when we grew up, but that reality was not very nice, especially in that impressionable age. If compulsory basic education is what we talk about, certainly youngsters can do without such schools where the students waste time and learn all the bad things. Everyone talks of education but I think the priorities of the system are flawed. No one is bothered to find out what is happening in the government schools and the kind of examples they are setting for the younger generation.

3

Cash Prize
Rs 500



Shrishti Kohli is doing her B.A. in Economics Honours in New Delhi. She wants to join the civil services.

Most students are not indolent or have the take-it-easy attitude projected on TV Channels. We work hard and are serious about making careers. When Indian students go abroad, they are the among the best and the most hardworking. The

Indian system, of course, places a lot of burden on them due to reservations and inefficiencies. Lack of opportunity and an unfavourable environment to learn forces them to take to mugging.

The scramble for jobs has resulted in people choosing certain streams which are considered the best, without taking into account whether one has the aptitude or not. Most of us land into professions more by chance than by considered choice.

No wonder our colleges roll out thousands of disillusioned boys and girls who, even after finishing their education, do not know what they are to do.

Many changes are needed to change this. We have made many excuses and the time has come to address the problem. Teachers should be selected only if they have an aptitude to teach and not because of their connections. Fees should be increased so that colleges can invest in better techniques. The effort should be to provide quality education and facilities should be improved no matter what it takes.



Nitin Lakheta is doing his B.Sc in Mumbai. He likes to play cricket and video

games.

I remember my first day in college because that marked my journey into adulthood. It was up to me to attend classes or not; nobody was going to ask me or punish me for doing so. It was up to me how I used my time. I learnt that freedom also brings responsibility. If I missed the classes, ultimately I would have to suffer. Whatever I did would make my destiny.

Different people took college life differently. Some were

enthusiastic about studies and rushed from room to room to be able to occupy the best seats in the first row. Others walked in slowly trying to look important and sat on the back benches. By watching them, I could decide what kind of person I wanted to become.

True, life is not all about marks and competition, but our enthusiasm is reflected in whatever we do well. If we do things with interest, they work out well but if we do it in a easy manner, the results are only average.

It is easy to criticise the education system, but I learnt in college that it has its good points too. It is up to us to make it useful for us or to keep complaining about it and do nothing.



G D Moses has done his B.A. and works in Nagercoil in Tamil Nadu. He is also doing a computer course on weekends.

The education system did not contribute anything to me. Divine belief and disciplined self-study alone enlightened me. During college, I witnessed strikes and non-serious teachers. Marks could be obtained by unfair means. This was quite a let down from what one had heard.

To make it more relevant, I suggest some changes in the system. First, politics should be banned from campuses.

This will also curb exploitation of students by political parties.

Second, the education minister should always be a qualified professional and not an uneducated politician.

Third, a number of professional institutes should be started for turning out good professionals. Through this, the evils of donations in sub-standard colleges will be curbed.

Finally, colleges should encourage intellectual growth and the education imparted should be

aligned with the best in the world.

At present they do not have an intellectual atmosphere but seems to be a time-pass.

This must change, so that degrees obtained in the country are compared to the best in the world.



After finishing her B.Com, Sangeeta Venkatesh joined Chartered Accountancy and is presently working as a trainee in a company in Mumbai. She is an accomplished Bharatnatyam dancer.

This year the prestigious institute IIT joined other universities which have their papers leaked. I was disgusted when this happened, but having seen the conditions in my college, I was not surprised. I came across hypocrite professors and unethical officials.

I could not do anything about it but helplessly had to watch education becoming a joke. To be fair, teachers are not the only ones to be blamed because the whole system is faulty.

Why else should serious students look expectantly at merit lists while others sail in with merely a scheduled caste certificate?

Ultimately, one takes out what one wants from the education system. Indian students do a good job in spite of the hurdles in front of them.

That is the reason why many become good professionals and even make a mark abroad.

At the same time, pressure due to studies should be reduced and students should be free to choose the professions that they like.

I lost a friend who committed suicide because of this and I would like the system to be more humane. Getting marks is not the ultimate in life, after all.



Lipi Mohapatra is doing her M.A. in English from Utkal University. She likes to

read, write and sing and lives in Bhubaneswar in Orissa.

For a change, our university becomes busy in March, when the examination schedules are announced. The sudden scramble for books and lectures would have been avoided had the education system not been generous in allowing students to fritter away their time throughout the year. No student is failed, since the university would not know what to do with him for another year.

To get a first division, of course, one has to either work or cheat. Different people follow different methods to succeed.

The education system is quite redundant today because a person mostly has to work on his own. Teachers often lack the knowledge or respect to guide the students properly. The examinations are reduced to a pantomime. If one follows the rote learning, one's creative skills can never be developed. One longs for a flexible system like in other countries where the emphasis is on gaining knowledge rather than mugging up things. If only we had some thinkers in the field of education, the system could have been changed and become at par with the best in the world and not looked down upon as it is done today.



R a h u l Agarwal is doing his B.Com in Calcutta. He also looks after his family

business.

Dreams die young. Sadly, this is the bitter truth for Indian youth, who have high aspirations and

desires but very often lack the sincerity and hard work required to achieve it.

To become a good professional, the education should develop practical thinking and social skills, but most courses are too theoretical. The quality of teaching has also to improve so that students feel enthused in doing something rather than merely appear in exams. On the other hand, it has been observed that a student chooses a course by sheer chance or because of what he feels will give him better job prospects.

This problem can be overcome to some extent through proper counselling. If people came to know of the different career options and can test their aptitude, they would be better suited for the job market later on. The system thus has to progress from rote learning to develop the curiosity of a person. Only then can we hope for better individuals who know what they want to do, rather than zombies who join the thousands taking meaningless graduation degrees.



Vilendra Mishra works as a lecturer of Microbiology in at Institute of Biomedical Sciences in Dehradun in U.P. He is determined to improve education in his own area and is committed to his work.

My joy crossed all bounds when I was appointed lecturer in a biomedical science institute. I felt elated, considering myself in the category of Dronacharya, Kautilya and Dr Radhakrishnan. I started my job with zeal. But two incidents compelled me to think about the system.

The first experience came when I was offered gifts by students to award them good marks. When I spoke about honesty, the reply was: "When everyone is doing it, why don't we follow the system?" I felt

very bad at the degradation of morals and ethics in our society.

Another incident which broke my dreams occurred when the parents of a girl rejected my marriage proposal because they did not consider teaching a very good profession. I felt bad that a profession in which duty, service and honesty are required, should be so degraded.

These two incidents gave a bad impression but I became determined to improve the system, at least within the area of my reach.



L. Janarthanan is doing his B.A. in Coimbatore in Kerala. His ambition is to become an IAS officer.

My school life was the best period of my life. It provided value-based education and taught me to be a good citizen. We were free to communicate our ideas and thoughts through literary club and science club. The teachers were committed. All the students felt as if they belonged to one family.

Many of these things changed in college and many drawbacks came to the fore. But my grounding in school has helped get over the shortcomings. I realised that I have to work on my own to achieve something in life. There is no point wasting time. The best part is that I can go back to my school and discuss things out whenever I feel confused. Looking back, I feel that is how all schools in the country should be like.



Ragini Mishra studies at Magadh Mahila College in Patna and wants to be a doctor. She is a debater, plays basketball and also likes to act in plays.

I have always been a topper in

school. But coming from a good private school to a college was a big let down. My first day in college was an experience of diversity and loneliness. There were many teachers but none was up to the mark. They treated us harshly and created an atmosphere of terror. They could not answer many of our questions. Rather than feel depressed, I decided to be tough and fight it out. But there was another blow for me when I scored less marks in my Chemistry exam though I had done it very well. I was told, "It's Bihar, miracles happen here." Again, I emerged mentally strong. I became all the more determined to fulfill my aim, which is of becoming a doctor. No matter what may happen to the education system in Bihar, I have decided to beat all odds and do well so that I can get admission to a good medical college.

The experience has made me a different person. I am much stronger now and I do not think much about marks and rankings any more. It has made me believe in myself and I know that I can achieve in my goals no matter what happens.



Anil Kumar Sharda has done his B.Ed and is now doing M.Sc in Mathematics. He lives in Chamba in Himachal Pradesh.

My school and college did not have anything which attracted me except perhaps watching the girls and taking part in extra-curricular activities. These activities made the otherwise drab education a meaningful experience and I was able to develop myself in all aspects. I now feel satisfied with my achievements. There were some teachers who inspired us, as they were impartial, and always encouraged us to do something in life.

These days there is a great rush in colleges and services can be improved to a great extent. Changes are required in the examination

system, basic facilities should be improved and work load reduced. There are many shortcomings in the system but that should not overwhelm us.

We should instead look at the brighter side of the picture. If education is privatised, things could improve drastically and I hope that the government gives up control in this crucial area. Only then will our colleges improve because they will then be in competition with others. Perhaps with the trend of liberalisation, things may change in the field of education too.



Gopa Mukhopadhyay studies in Class 12 in Dehradun. She likes painting, debating and sports.

It is a fashion these days to criticize teachers just to cover our own faults of not studying. If we get less marks, we blame it on the teachers for not teaching well or for not evaluating answer sheets properly.

However, if we ask who is really at fault, we will discover that belief in hard work has faded away and blaming it on others has become the trend.

Much depends on the individual, of course. A person who respects the teacher and listens carefully will certainly get more marks than those who do not. True, there may be some teachers who are money-minded and run after tuitions, but all the teaching community is not like that. There are some teachers who inspire and tell us to be confident. We like talking to them.

Maybe things will change in college but I think that any individual can make the best out of the system, if he wants to.

*Thank you for
your interesting
response, dear reader.*



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TEST OF REASONING

In questions 1 to 6, four out of five given sets of numbers have identical relationship. Your task is to find out the set that is different from the rest.

1. (a) 13(16)9 (b) 22(50)15 (c) 17(1)16
(d) 25(25)20 (e) 7(36)1
2. (a) 7 : 48 (b) 10 : 99 (c) 1 : 0
(d) 5 : 26 (e) 6 : 35
3. (a) 8 : 9 (b) 36 : 42 (c) 30 : 35
(d) 12 : 14 (e) 24 : 28
4. (a) 6(20)4 (b) 11(40)9 (c) 10(30)8
(d) 5(21)2 (e) 10(51)7
5. (a) 16 : 64 (b) 100 : 1000 (c) 1 : 1
(d) 36 : 216 (e) 25 : 225
6. (a) 6 : 16 (b) 7 : 19 (c) 10 : 27
(d) 11 : 31 (e) 5 : 13

Find out the missing numbers:

7. 2; 7; 22; ...; 202.
(a) 72 (b) 86 (c) 108
(d) 67 (e) None of these
8. 100; 75; 59; 50; ...
(a) 38 (b) 40 (c) 42
(d) 46 (e) None of these
9. 81; 54; 36; 24; ...
(a) 20 (b) 16 (c) 18
(d) 15 (e) None of these
10. 100000; 1000; 10; ...
(a) .1 (b) .01 (c) .001
(d) .0001 (e) None of these
11. 2; 6; ...; 20; 30; 42.
(a) 12 (b) 10 (c) 8
(d) 14 (e) None of these
12. 3; 4; 10; 33; ...
(a) 72 (b) 94 (c) 136
(d) 142 (e) None of these
13.

12	6	2
5	10	?
3	4	13

(a) 8 (b) 7 (c) 3
(d) 5 (e) None of these

5	20	4
10	X	?
2	6	3

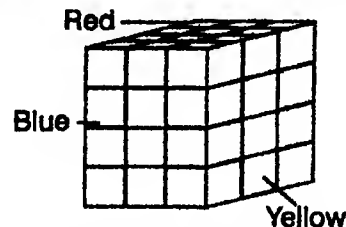
- (a) 8 (b) 12 (c) 16
(d) 14 (e) None of these

Find the odd-man out:

15. (a) MLJK (b) TSPQ (c) XWUV
(d) HGEF (e) IJGH
16. (a) YXVS (b) KJHE (c) NMKH
(d) SRPM (e) UTQN

17. (a) BDHF (b) KMOO (c) GIMK
(d) RTYV (e) EGKI
18. (a) WD (b) OL (c) TG
(d) YC (e) QJ
19. (a) JMG (b) PSM (c) WZT
(d) EIB (e) MPJ
20. (a) CG10 (b) MP29 (c) JT30
(d) FK17 (e) NS32

A cube is cut into 36 small cubes as shown in the figure. The opposite sides are painted red, blue and yellow.



Now answer the following questions:

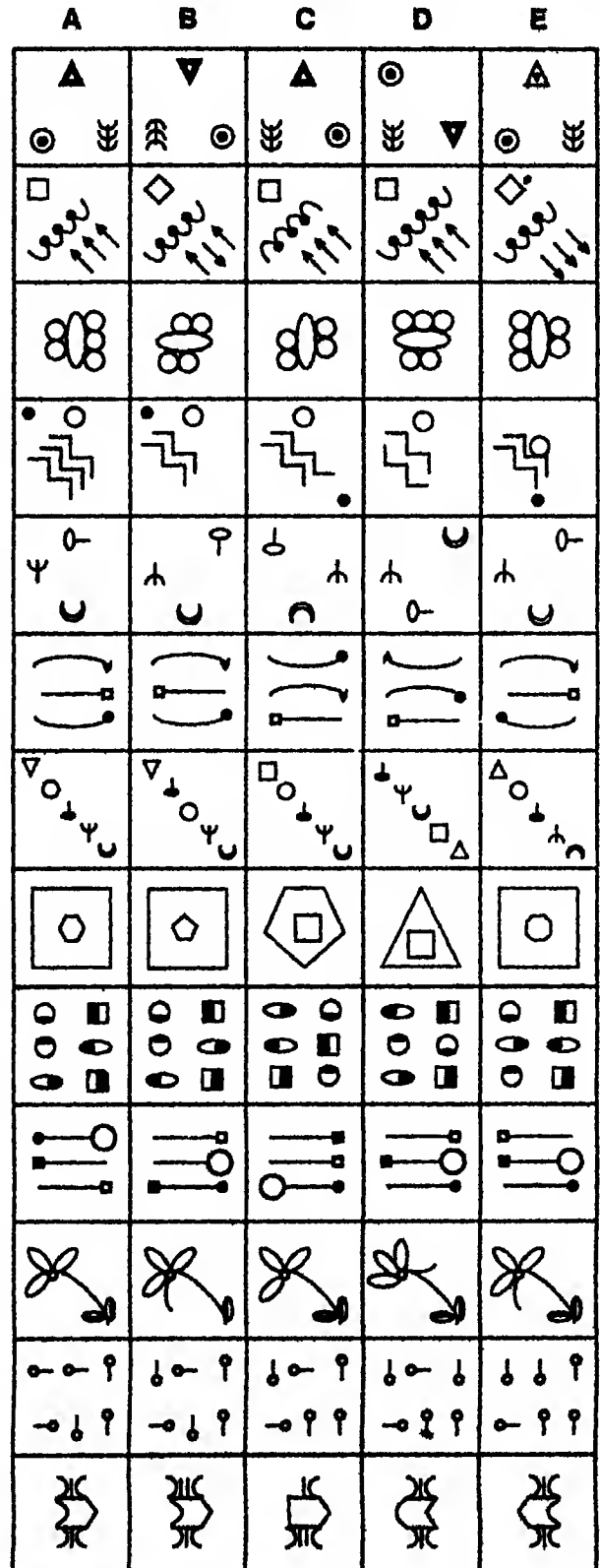
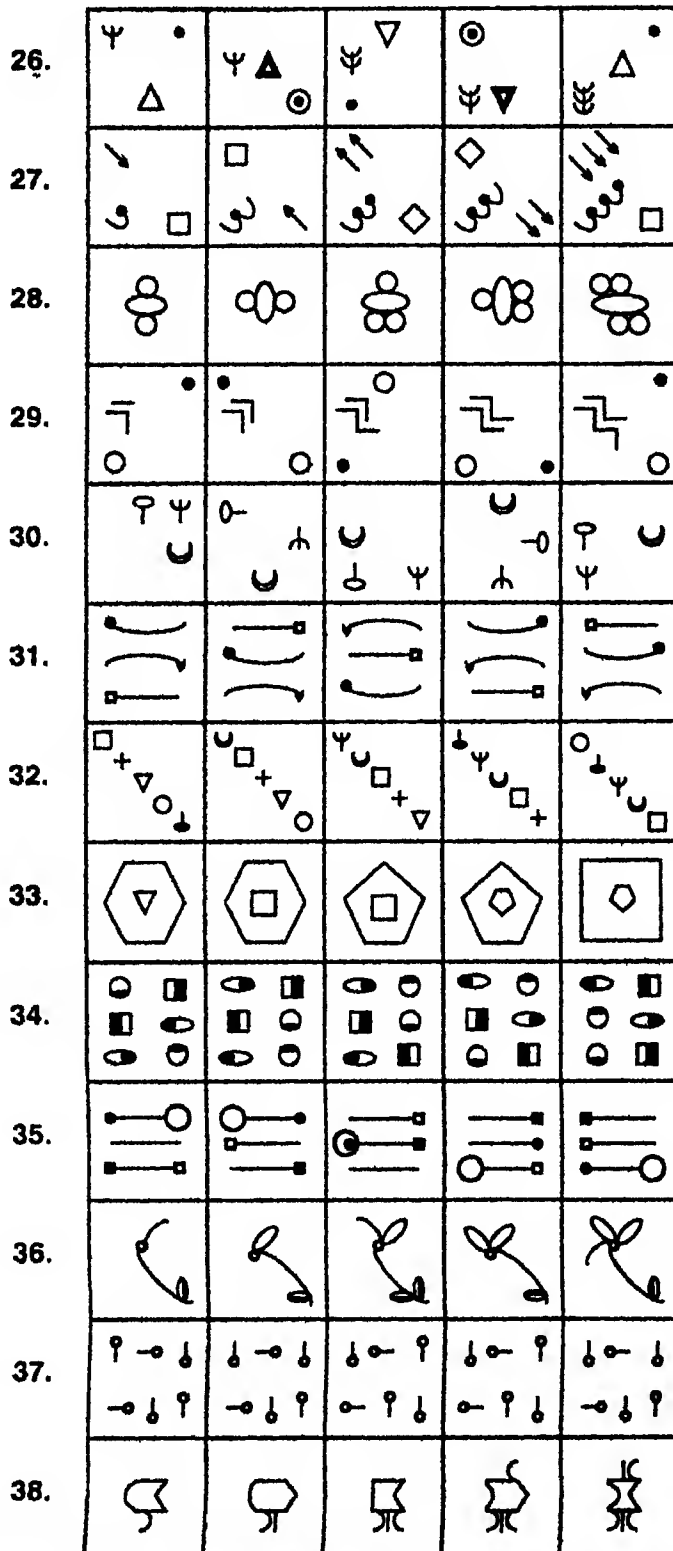
21. How many small cubes have paint on one side only?
(a) 6 (b) 10 (c) 12
(d) 18 (e) None of these
22. How many cubes have no paint at all?
(a) None (b) 1 (c) 2
(d) 6 (e) None of these
23. A box contains a number of pens, pencils and brushes. The total number of the items is 60.
There are nine more pencils than pens and the number of brushes is one third of the total number of pencils and pens. Which of the following statements is not correct?
(a) Pencils are 12 more in number than brushes.
(b) The number of brushes is 16.
(c) The total number of pens and brushes is 33.
(d) The number of pencils is 27.
(e) The number of brushes is 3 less than pens.
24. 1st January of a leap year fell on Monday. How many months of the year, including January would start from Monday?
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5 (e) 6
25. A hotel serves five dishes, A, B, C, D and E.
E is cheaper than A but costlier than C.
D is cheaper than B but costlier than A.
If we start counting from the costliest dish, the order of the dishes according to their prices would be:
(a) DBAEC (b) BDEAC (c) BDACE
(d) BDAEC (e) BADCE

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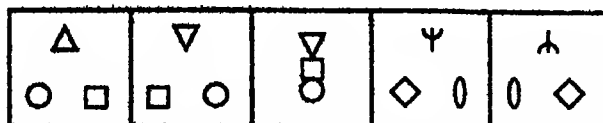
Given below are two sets of figures, the Problem Figures and the Answer Figures marked A, B, C, D and E. Study the Problem Figures carefully and find out which figure from A, B, C, D and E would be the next one in the series.

PROBLEM FIGURES

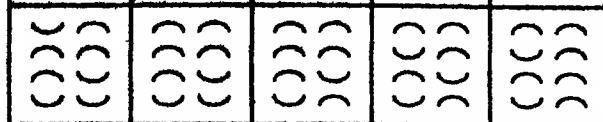
ANSWER FIGURES



39.



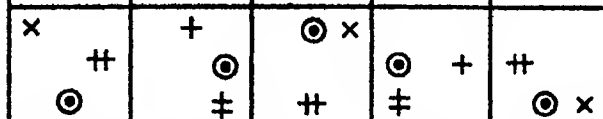
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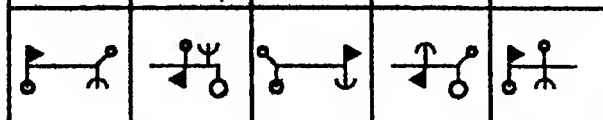
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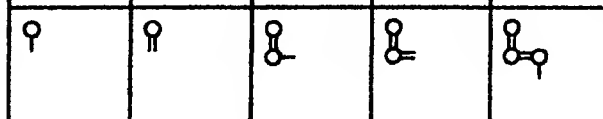
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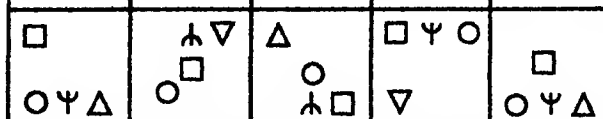
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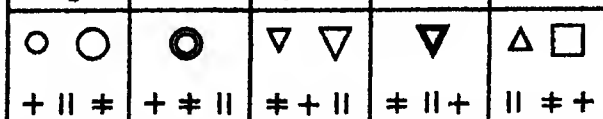
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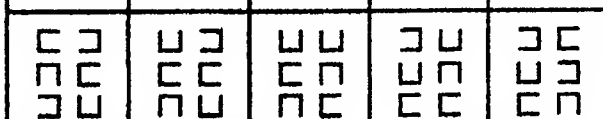
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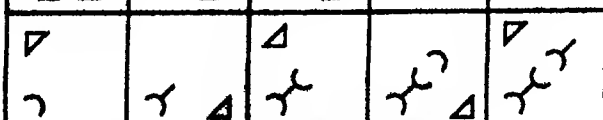
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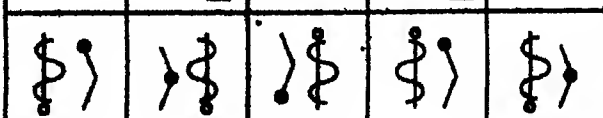
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50.



51.



52.



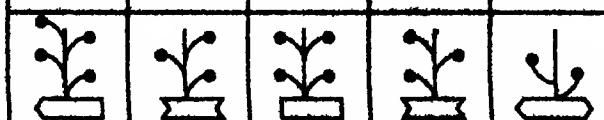
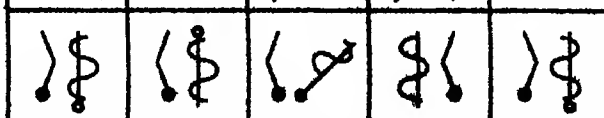
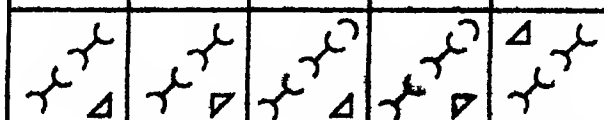
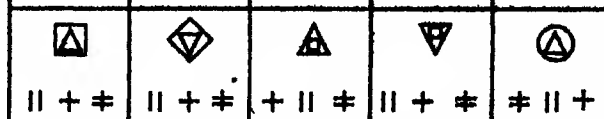
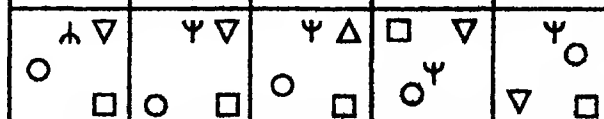
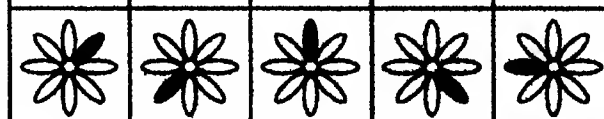
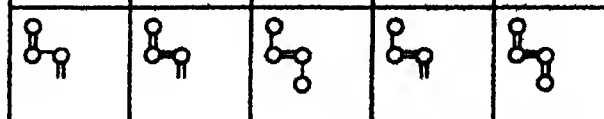
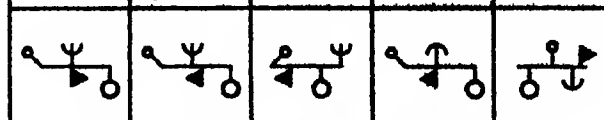
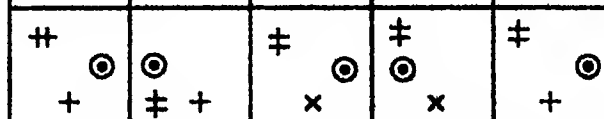
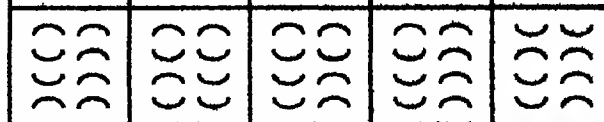
A

B

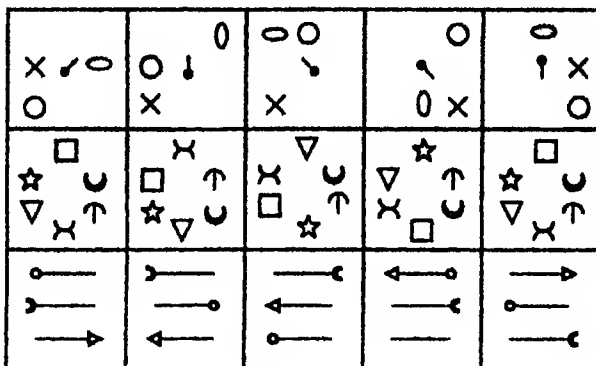
C

D

E



53.



54.

55.

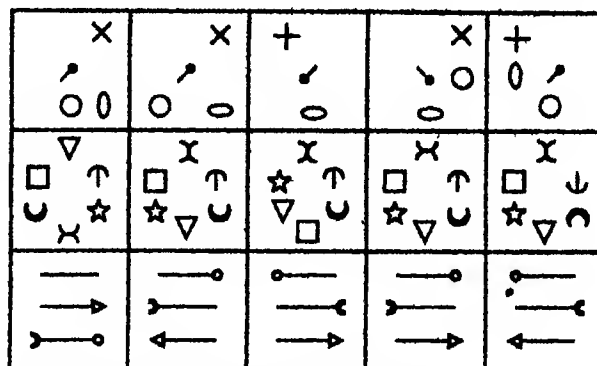
A

B

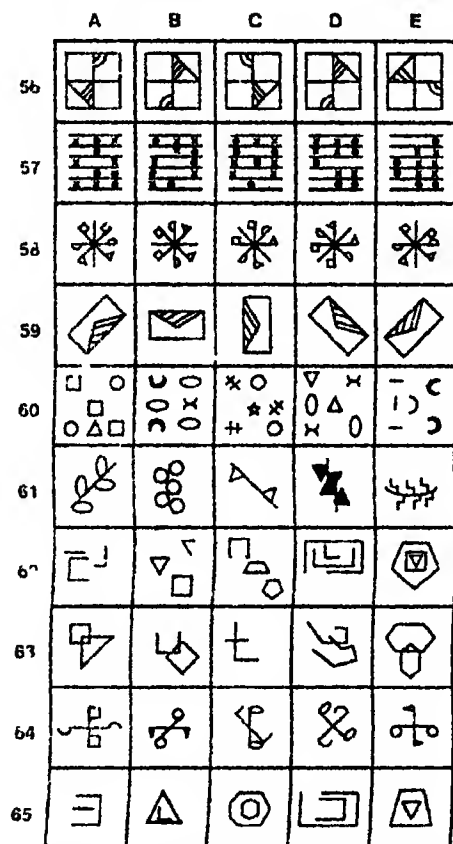
C

D

E



Find the odd-man out



In questions 66 to 69, a 3 x 2 size right-angle has been cut into two parts. Your task is to match the right parts

66.



A



67.



B



68.



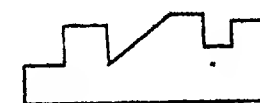
C



69.



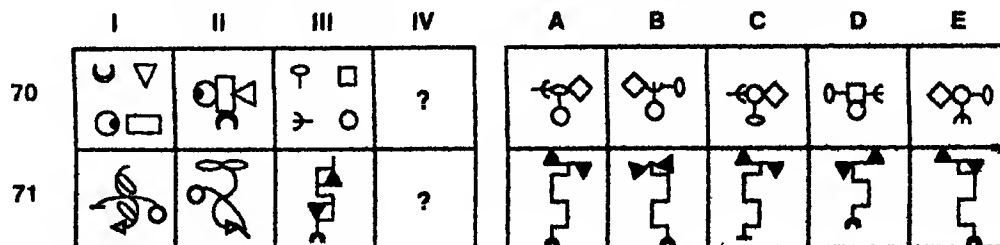
D



In questions 70 to 75 Problem Figures I and II have a definite relationship. You have to find out which of the Answer Figures from A, B, C, D and E have an identical relationship with Figure III?

PROBLEM FIGURES

ANSWER FIGURES



	I	II	III	IV	A	B	C	D	E
72.				?					
73.				?					
74.				?					
75.				?					

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- (b) In all the others, the number in bracket is the square of difference in numbers on its left and right, e.g., $13 - 9 = 4$ and 4^2 is 16
 - (d) The second number is square -1 of the first number.
 - (a) All the other pairs have a ratio of 6 : 7.
 - (c) In all the others the number in the bracket is the difference of squares of numbers on its left and right, e.g., $6^2 - 4^2 = 20$
 - (c) In all the others, the arrangement is $x^2 \cdot x^3$.
 - (c) In all the others, multiply the first number by 3 and deduct 2 from the product to get the second number
 - (d) Each number is $\times 3 + 1$ of the preceding number
 - (d) Go on deducting $5^2, 4^2, 3^2, 2^2$ from numbers
 - (b) Each next number is $2/3$ rd of the preceding number
 - (b) Each next number is $\frac{1}{100}$ of the preceding number
 - (a) The numbers have a difference of 4, 6, 8, 10, 12.
 - (c) The arrangement is $3 \times 1 + 1 = 4$; $4 \times 2 + 2 = 10$; $10 \times 3 + 3 = 33$; $33 \times 4 + 4 = 136$.
 - (d) The total of numbers linewise and columnwise is 20.
 - (b) $4 \times 3 = 12$; $2 \times 3 = 6$; $2 \times 5 = 10$; $5 \times 4 = 20$.
 - (b) 16. (c) 17. (d) 18. (d) 19. (d)
 - (c) Write the alphabets from A to Z and number them from 1 to 26. The number given is the total of numbers of the letters, e.g., $C(3) + G(7) = 10$
 - (b) 22. (c) 23. (b) 24. (b) 25. (d)
- For solving the next type of questions, you must study each figure in the question very minutely. Study the figures independently as well as in relationship with other figures. The following guidelines might prove helpful
- The figures may remain at their place as such or may change in size or shape or may rotate clockwise/anti-clockwise or tilt sideways or turn upside down. (Example: questions 28, 38, 52 etc.)
 - Some figures in questions have movement. They may go around clockwise, anti-clockwise, right to left and up and down or vice-versa, from corner to corner or along certain points. The pace of the movement may be different. Some figures may have a regular movement while some may gain or lose a step (Examples: questions 26, 30, 46, 53 etc.)
 - Some figures may interchange places among themselves according to a set-pattern. The figures may or may not change direction during this movement. (Examples: questions 31, 34, 35, 47, 51, 54, 55 etc.)
 - Something may be added or dropped from the figures in each next step. The dropped figure may reappear after a few steps (Examples: questions 27, 28, 29, 32, 36, 38, 44, 50, 52 etc.)
 - Some figures may appear in a cluster and only one of them or two of them may change position or direction with each step. (Examples: questions 37, 40 and 49 etc.)
 - Figures may appear in sets of two or three and after two or three steps, another set of figures would advance further according to the same pattern. (Examples: questions 33, 39, 41 etc.)
- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. C | 27. A | 28. C | 29. B | 30. E |
| 31. B | 32. A | 33. A | 34. A | 35. D |
| 36. C | 37. B | 38. A | 39. E | 40. D |
| 41. D | 42. E | 43. B | 44. B | 45. D |
| 46. A | 47. C | 48. A | 49. C | 50. B |
| 51. E | 52. D | 53. A | 54. D | 55. A |
- C The direction of pattern is different
 - B Check the arrangement of dots and crosses numberwise in different lines.
 - E The direction of square flags is wrong.
 - A The lines on the flap ought to be in reverse direction.
 - D In all the others the similar figures follow the arrangement of 1, 2 and 3, here it is 2, 2, 2.
 - B In all the others, the number of off-shoots on both the sides is equal.
 - C In all the others the sides of the figure are x ; $x + 1$; $x + 2$, here two figures have four sides.
 - E In all the others, one of the figures has one side less.
 - C The pattern on one of the edges should be pointing on the opposite direction.
 - A The outer figure should have one extra side only, this one has two.
- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 66. B | 67. C | 68. D | 69. A | 70. C |
| 71. E | 72. B | 73. C | 74. A | 75. D |

TEST OF REASONING—II

Find the odd-man out:

1. (a) probability (b) feasibility (c) immutability
(d) practicability (e) possibility
2. (a) cub (b) lamb (c) puppy
(d) infant (e) teddy
3. (a) carpenter (b) cobbler (c) sweeper
(d) mason (e) tailor
4. (a) mica (b) zinc (c) copper
(d) bronze (e) silver
5. (a) yawn (b) sneeze (c) hiccup
(d) shout (e) gasp
6. (a) day (b) week (c) fathom
(d) second (e) century
7. (a) yam (b) tomato (c) garlic
(d) potato (e) turnip
8. (a) printer (b) writer (c) editor
(d) composer (e) publisher

Qs. 9-16. In each question below, the pair of words given has a definite relationship. Your task is to find out from (a), (b), (c) and (d) the pair of words having the same relationship.

9. type-writer : letter
(a) hammer : nail (b) sea : waves
(c) computer : automation (d) piano : musical notes
10. horse : mane
(a) zebra : stripes (b) dog : pekinese
(c) buffalo : milk (d) sheep : fleece
11. Neptune : Pluto
(a) V.V. Giri : Gyan Zail Singh (b) Akbar : Birbal
(c) Nehru : Dr Rajendra Prasad
(d) Pacific Ocean : Cape Town
12. Eskimo : igloo
(a) lion : jungle (b) fish : water
(c) snail : shell (d) Nagas : Assam
13. stability : fluctuation
(a) stupid : truant (b) availability : black-market
(c) opaque : transparent (d) temporary : officiating
14. mood : expression
(a) tears : eyes (b) disease : symptom
(c) worship : prayer (d) happiness : heart
15. strawberry : fruit
(a) letter : language (b) chair : furniture
(c) eyes : face (d) shoes : leather
16. button : fasten
(a) music : song (b) oar : row
(c) chair : sit (d) spectacles : eyes

Qs. 17-21. Match the right parts on the basis of similar relationship among the items. The order of items need not be the same.

17. book : word : newspaper. (a) Bhil : Naga : tribals
18. sheet : pillow : quilt. (b) can : barrel : bottle
19. bird : sparrow : hawk. (c) cake : chocolate : sugar
20. shirt : tailor : coat. (d) knife : fork : spoon
21. lake : river : pond. (e) soup : salad : cook
22. If in a certain code CALCUTTA is DCOGZZAI then

AHMEDABAD would be:

- (a) BJHQHFHIM (b) BJHQHFHIL
(c) BJHQIGIHL (d) BJHQIGIIM

(e) BJHQHGIIM

Qs. 23 to 28. The names of certain cities are written in code on the right, each small letter is the code for one of the letters in the name of the city. Your task is to find out the right code for the letter enclosed in box.

23. K A **N** P U R
(a) / (b) y (c) j (d) d (e) g (f) n
24. S H I **M** L A
(a) q (b) x (c) c (d) d (e) w (f) t
25. **B** H O P A L
(a) c (b) g (c) v (d) d (e) q (f) f
26. J A I P **U** R
(a) d (b) b (c) n (d) t (e) y (f) g
27. M U M B A **I**
(a) n (b) t (c) w (d) d (e) v (f) w
28. R A N C **H** I
(a) d (b) y (c) c (d) t (e) e (f) z

Qs. 29 and 30. Each question below has a key-word. Four out of the five given words are related to the key-word in the same way while one is different. Your task is to find the odd-one out:

29. TRANSFER
(a) SAFE (b) TENSE (c) AFTER
(d) STAR (e) TEARS
30. FUNDAMENTAL
(a) MENTAL (b) FUND (c) DAME
(d) DAMN (e) AMEN

Qs. 31 to 33. In a family, an old couple have two sons and one daughter, all married. Study the following statements and answer the questions that follow:

Dharmveer is Shakuntala's brother-in-law.

Girish is Sushula's brother.

Hardevi is not Raghunath's wife.

Shiv Shankar is not Shanti's husband.

Shanti is not married to Raghunath.

31. Shiv Shankar is Sushula's ...

- (a) brother (b) son (c) husband
(d) brother-in-law (e) father

32. Hardevi is Dharmveer's ...

- (a) mother (b) sister (c) wife
(d) daughter (e) mother-in-law

33. Which of the following statements is wrong?

- (a) Shanti is Dharmveer's wife.
(b) Dharmveer and Girish are brothers.
(c) Shakuntala is Girish's wife.
(d) Raghunath and Dharmveer are brothers.
(e) Shanti is Hardevi's daughter-in-law.

Six villages, A, B, C, D, E and F are situated as follows:

C is 1 km to the east of A.

B is 2 kms to the west of D.

F is 2 kms to the east of E.

D is 2 kms to the south of A.

E is 2 kms to the south of B.

34. Which three villages lie in a straight line?

- (a) ACD (b) ACF (c) ADF
(d) BEF (e) CEF
35. Which of the following statements is not correct:
(a) E is in the southwest of D.
(b) A is 4 kms from F.
(c) B is in the northwest of F.
(d) C and E are the farthest places among these six.
(e) B is in the northwest of A.

Three men A, B, C and their wives X, Y, Z respectively, are sitting round a table.

No woman has her husband on her right or left.
The arrangement of sitting is one man and one woman.
C is to the right of Y.

36. Who is on the left of Z?
(a) A (b) B (c) C
(d) Can't say

37. Which of the following statement is correct?
(a) X is to the right of C. (b) A is to the right of X.
(c) Z is facing B. (d) Y is facing C.

Five new Special Holiday Trains A, B, C, D and E have been started from Delhi for Calcutta, Mumbai, Chennai, Patna and Jammu but not in the same order.

A and E do not go to Calcutta or Patna.

E does not go to Chennai.

D does not go to Mumbai or Patna.

B and D do not go to Chennai or Calcutta.

38. Which train goes to Jammu?
(a) A (b) B (c) C (d) D (e) E

39. Train C connects Delhi to:
(a) Calcutta (b) Mumbai (c) Jammu
(d) Chennai (e) Patna

40. Which of the following statement is incorrect?
(a) D connects Delhi to Jammu.
(b) C does not go to Chennai.
(c) E goes to Mumbai.
(d) A connects Jammu to Delhi.
(e) All the above statements are incorrect.

SYLLOGISMS

In each question below are given two statements followed by four conclusions, numbered, I, II, III and IV. You have to take the two given statements to be true even if they seem at variance with commonly known facts. Read all the conclusions and then decide which of the given conclusions logically follow from the two given statements, disregarding commonly known facts.

Statements:

41. 1. Some flowers are trees.
2. All trees are animals.

Conclusions:

- I. Some trees are not flowers.
II. Some flowers are animals.
III. All animals are trees.
IV. Some flowers are not animals.
(a) Only I and III follow. (b) Either II or IV follows.
(c) Only II and IV follow. (d) Only III follows.
(e) Only III and IV follow.

Statements:

42. 1. All balls are pebbles.
2. All shuttle-cocks are pebbles.

Conclusions:

- I. Some pebbles are shuttle-cocks as well as balls.
II. Every pebble is either a shuttle-cock or a ball.
III. Some pebbles are neither shuttle-cock nor ball.

IV. No pebble is shuttle-cock as well as ball.

- (a) Only I follows. (b) Only II follows.
(c) Only III follows. (d) Only IV follows.
(e) Any one of the four follows.

Statements:

43. 1. Some pictures are models.
2. Some models are statues.

Conclusions:

- I. Every picture is either a model or a statue.
II. Some statues are not models.
III. Some statues are pictures.
IV. No statue is a picture.
(a) Only I follows. (b) Only II and III follow.
(c) Either I or II follows. (d) Either III or IV follows.
(e) None follows.

Statements:

44. 1. All buses are aeroplanes.
2. All aeroplanes are rockets.

Conclusions:

- I. All buses are rockets.
II. All aeroplanes are buses.
III. Some buses are not rockets.
IV. All rockets are aeroplanes.
(a) Only I follows. (b) Only II follows.
(c) Only III follows. (d) Only IV follows.
(e) Any one of the four follows.

Statements:

45. 1. All files are registers.
2. Some registers are telephones.

Conclusions:

- I. Some files are telephones.
II. Some telephones are not registers.
III. Every telephone is either a register or a file.
IV. Only those telephones are files which are not registers.
(a) Only I follows. (b) Only II follows.
(c) Only III follows. (d) Only IV follows.
(e) None follows.

Statements:

46. 1. All those clerks are managers who are not accountants.
2. Every manager is either director or secretary.

Conclusions:

- I. Some clerks are neither manager nor accountant.
II. Some clerks are directors.
III. Some clerks are secretaries.
IV. Some accountants are secretaries.
(a) Only I follows.
(b) Either II or III or both follow.
(c) Either I or IV or both follow.
(d) None follows. (e) All the four follow.

Statements:

47. 1. Some children are flowers.
2. Some plants are flowers.

Conclusions:

- I. Some flowers are plants as well as children.
II. Every flower is either a plant or a child.
III. No flower is child as well as plant.
IV. All children are flowers.
(a) Only I and II follow. (b) Either II or IV follows.
(c) Either I or III follows. (d) Only III follows.
(e) None follows.

Statements:

48. 1. All papers are books.
2. Some tables are books.

Conclusions:

- I. Some tables are papers.
 - II. Some papers are not tables.
 - III. Some books are not tables.
 - IV. Some tables are not papers.
- (a) Only I follows. (b) Only II follows.
(c) Only III follows. (d) Only IV follows.
(e) Any one of the four follows.

In each question below is given a statement followed by three assumptions, numbered I, II and III. An assumption is something supposed or taken for granted. You have to consider the statement and the assumptions and then decide which of the assumptions is implicit in the statement. Then decide which of the answer is correct.

Statement:

49. A substantial quantity of fruits and vegetables lose their quality attributes due to non-availability of ideal storage conditions.

Assumptions:

- I. Stored fruits and vegetables are as good as fresh ones.
 - II. If fruits and vegetables are not stored in a proper scientific way, they cannot retain their quality.
 - III. If properly stored, fruits and vegetables can retain their original quality to quite an extent.
- (a) Only I and II are implicit.
(b) Only II and III are implicit.
(c) Only I and III are implicit.
(d) Only I is implicit. (e) Any one of the three.

Statement:

50. The oldest person of the world, a 122 year old French woman who died two months back, had no direct descendants.

Assumptions:

- I. Others in the family did not have a very long life.
 - II. French people have longer lives as compared to persons belonging to other nationalities.
 - III. Longevity is not always inherited.
- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.
(c) Only III is implicit.
(d) Only I and II are implicit.
(e) Only I and III are implicit.

Statement:

51. When a particular party is not satisfied by the verdict of High Court, it puts in an appeal in the Supreme Court.

Assumptions:

- I. The judges of Supreme Court are professionally much superior to the judges of High Court.
 - II. Supreme Court usually reverses the verdict of High Court.
 - III. One cannot go to the Supreme Court directly without passing through the lower courts.
- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.
(c) Only III is implicit. (d) Either I or II is implicit.
(e) None is implicit.

Statement:

52. Himachal Pradesh is the first State in the country which proposes to adopt the technology of using solar power in a massive way.

Assumptions:

- I. No other State gets as brilliant sun-shine as the

Himachal.

- II. Other States are not interested in adopting solar energy system.
 - III. Solar power is cheaper than the hydro-power electricity.
- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.
(c) Only III is implicit.
(d) Any one of the three is implicit.
(e) None is implicit.

Statement:

53. Mr X expects his daughter Y to marry a business tycoon.

Assumptions:

- I. Mr X himself is a big businessman hence wants his daughter to marry a person of similar status.
 - II. Mr X is not very well off hence he needs a rich son-in-law.
 - III. Y is the only child of her parents.
- (a) Either I or II is implicit.
(b) Either II or III is implicit. (c) Only III is implicit.
(d) Only I and II are implicit. (e) All are implicit.

Statement:

54. A public school asks the parents to submit a special document proving their financial soundness on a prescribed form issued by the school.

Assumptions:

- I. The education in this particular school is rather expensive.
 - II. Some parents often cheat the school authorities.
 - III. The education imparted in this particular school is much better as compared to other school.
- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.
(c) Only III is implicit. (d) Either I or II is implicit.
(e) None is implicit.

Statement:

55. Since modern medicine has no cure for diseases like arthritis, diabetes and AIDS, why should the Indian Medical Association object if the patients are themselves willing to go to 'mantra healing centres'?

Assumptions:

- I. The IMA considers the process of healing through mantras as a quackery.
 - II. Some patients have faith in the healing power of mantras.
 - III. Since most of the patients are getting cured at the 'mantra healing centres' the IMA is rather anxious and worried over this rival.
- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.
(c) Only III is implicit. (d) Only I and II are implicit.
(e) Only II and III are implicit.

Statement:

56. According to statistics atleast three crore cases are pending in different courts of the country.

Assumptions:

- I. The parties concerned are in no hurry.
 - II. The number of judges is not enough in the country.
 - III. The cases have to pass through a very long procedure hence fall prey to red-tapism.
- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.
(c) Only III is implicit. (d) Either I or II is implicit.
(e) Only I and III are implicit.

In each question below is given a statement followed by three courses of action, numbered I, II and III. A course of action is a step or administrative decision to be taken for follow-up, improvement or further action in regard to the problem, policy etc. on the basis of the information given in the statement. You have to assume everything stated in the statement to be true, then decide which of the three suggested courses of action logically follow for pursuing.

Statement:

57. In big cities, walking on road has become a hazard for the pedestrians themselves as well as for vehicle drivers.

Courses of action:

- I. Parents and school authorities should be instructed to teach the children civic discipline of walking right from the beginning.
- II. Footpaths should be clean, spacious and well maintained so that pedestrians need not come down and walk on roads.
- III. There should be separate timings for vehicle-drivers and pedestrians so that they do not clash.

- (a) Only I follows. (b) Only II follows.
(c) Only III follows. (d) Only I and II follow.
(e) Only II and III follow.

Statement:

58. Although there has been appreciable decline in the birth-rate and infant mortality, the target is yet much ahead in a certain State.

Courses of Action:

- I. There should be some incentives for those Family Welfare Centres who have achieved the targets.
- II. For the next plan, the target should be a little lower.
- III. The authorities should try to find out why the target could not be achieved and work out the strategy accordingly.

- (a) Only I follows. (b) Only I and II follow.
(c) Either II or III follows. (d) Either I or III follows.
(e) Only I and III follow.

Statement:

59. Colleges are unable to provide seats to all the students who pass the Senior Secondary Examination.

Courses of Action:

- I. The students, who do not get admission in colleges, should be given employment by the government.
- II. Private sectors, who propose to start colleges should be encouraged.
- III. There should be a provision of providing some technical or vocational training according to the aptitude of students to those who are not very brilliant at studies.

- (a) Only I follows. (b) Only I and II follow.
(c) Only II and III follow. (d) Only I and III follow.
(e) All the three follow.

Statement:

60. Some of the old forts, situated on hills or near mountain are slowly crumbling due to blasts nearby.

Courses of Action:

- I. Blasting should not be allowed near areas which have any sort of historical relics.
- II. These old forts should be repaired and put to some use.
- III. All such forts should be handed over to the

department of Tourism.

- (a) Only I and II follow. (b) Only I and III follow.
(c) Only II and III follow.
(d) Any one of the three follows.
(e) None follow.

Statement:

61. Incidents of country-made bomb blasts are increasing day by day in city X.

Courses of Action:

- I. A door to door search should be methodically organized to reach to the root of the crime and catch miscreants.
- II. There should be special programmes through camps and medias to make the citizens alert.
- III. There should be special checking parties on railway stations and check-posts.

- (a) Only I and II follow.
(b) Only II and III follow.
(c) Only I and III follow.
(d) Any one of the three follows.
(e) All the three follow.

Statement:

62. Some crafts have been taught to the rural women but they are not proving helpful to these women for earning money.

Courses of Action:

- I. Some sort of co-operative market should be made available to these women where their products may be sold.
- II. The banks should give them loan so that they may start their small cottage industries on their own.
- III. The price of goods made by them should be lowered so as to attract customers.

- (a) Only II and III follow. (b) Only I and II follow.
(c) Only I and III follow. (d) Only II follows.
(e) Only I follows.

Statement:

63. The government is knowledgeable that the amendment in the Bill, they are proposing to present in the Lok Sabha will meet with fierce controversies and opposition.

Courses of Action:

- I. They should postpone the Bill till more favourable conditions exist.
- II. The government should present the Bill and let the issue be decided by votes.
- III. The opposition party should not be allowed to enter Lok Sabha when the Bill is presented.

- (a) Only I and II follow.
(b) Either II or III follows.
(c) Either I or II follows.
(d) Only III follows.
(e) None follows.

Statement:

64. Patriotism and national character are slowly becoming thing of the past, specially among the young.

Courses of Action:

- I. Right type of national values should be inculcated among students while they are quite young.
- II. Lives of great national leaders who sacrificed their life for the sake of the country should be an essential part of the syllabi.

III Children should not be told about crimes, scams and scandals.

- (a) Only I follows.
 (b) Only II follows.
 (c) Only III follows.
 (d) Only I and II follow.
 (e) All the three follow.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (c) All the others mean almost the same.
2. (e) All the others are young ones of certain species, teddy is a toy.
3. (c) All the others are creators.
4. (d) All the others are pure minerals.
5. (d) All the others are actions of a natural physical process and not under control.
6. (c) All the others are measurements of time.
7. (b) All the others are root vegetables.
8. (d) The term is associated with composing music while all the others are related to the same profession.
9. (d) The relationship is that of the person and the keys on key-board on which he works.
10. (d) The relationship is that of the animal and its hair.
11. (a) Both belong to the same category.
12. (c) The relationship is that of the inhabitant and its specific home.
13. (c) The words are opposites.
14. (b) One can be judged through the other.
15. (b) The relationship is that of a specific item and the general category to which it belongs.
16. (b) The relationship is that of the item and the function it performs.

17. (c) 18. (d) 19. (a) 20. (c) 21. (b)
 22. (d) Write all the alphabets from A to Z, see how the gap of the code letter increases by one with each letter.

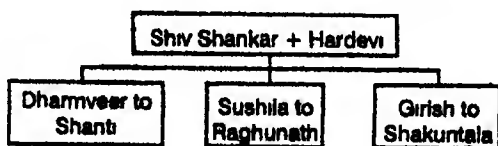
For the next set of questions, sort out common letters in words and match them with common code letters, e.g., 'M' occurs twice in question no. 27 and once in question no. 24, so does the code letter 'w', hence 'w' is the code for M.

23. (a) 24. (e) 25. (c) 26. (c) 27. (b)
 28. (c)
 29. (b) In all the other words, all the letters used have been taken from the key word. This one has an extra 'E'.
 30. (d) All the other words have been picked up without any changes or drop-outs among letters. This is the only exception.

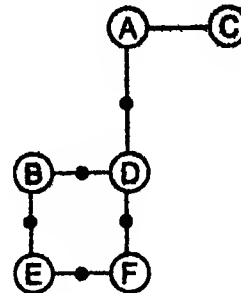
31. (c)

32. (a)

33. (d)



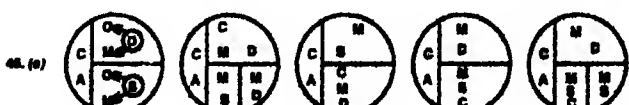
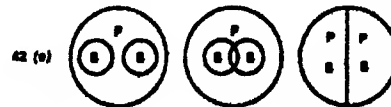
34. (c)



35. (e)

36. (d) 37. (a) 38. (d) 39. (a) 40. (d)

The best way to solve the next set of questions is by drawing diagrams based on their relationship of all the probable situations. Let each item be represented by a circle, irrespective of its size. Here are a few examples—that will help you to reach the fool-proof conclusion.



49. (b) 50. (e) 51. (c) 52. (e) 53. (a)
 54. (a) 55. (d) 56. (c) 57. (d) 58. (e)
 59. (c) 60. (a) 61. (e) 62. (b) 63. (c)
 64. (d)

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50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE Golden Jubilee Celebrated

THE nation celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its independence with special functions all over the country. The President and the Prime Minister called for a second independence and urges the common people to start a national movement against corruption. In New Delhi, freedom fighters walked down Rajpath in a function which also had A R Rahman's rendition of *Vande Mataram*. The off-key rendition and mediocre words of the song jarred, as did the performances of classical dancers dancing in front of percussion drums. Critics labelled the botched affair as a promotional night for Rahman. On August 15, a balloon of four Ashoka lions collapsed, creating an apt metaphor for present-day India.

A special session of Parliament was held, in which MPs delivered platitudes about what should be done. Among the problems that were addressed were population control, corruption, literacy, unemployment and poverty. Costing about Rs 7,000 a minute, the session was extended to accommodate all the MPs who wanted to speak. The session was meant for soul-searching but ended in long speeches. The MPs themselves were sceptical of the outcome of the session and indeed, no action plan seemed to emerge.

ELECTIONS

Criminal offenders barred from contesting polls

THE Election Commission ordered on August 28, 1997, that no convicted person would be allowed to contest elections, regardless of any appeal against the conviction pending in a higher court. At present, this bar does not apply if such an appeal is pending or if a person is on bail. Without waiting any longer for the government to act upon suggestions to check criminalisation of politics, the commission

Devaluation of Rupee

For the past year, the rupee had remained in the range of Rs 35.70-35.85 per dollar. There was a crisis in the foreign exchange market following a report quoting Prime Minister I.K. Gujral that the Finance Ministry and the RBI were working on a band within which the rupee would be allowed to move freely against the dollar. The rupee started falling and touched a 18-month low of Rs 36.70, causing much consternation among corporate circles. The RBI moved in, selling dollars to break the fall. It then stabilised at Rs 36.50. According to financial experts, the exchange rate fluctuation was mainly on account of the demand-supply situation which was directly linked to market sentiment. For quite some time, there had been a feeling that the rupee was overvalued, going by the Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER). There was a feeling that the government wanted to bring the value of the rupee more in line with its real value, as it was affecting exports. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) welcomed the downside as a correction which was long overdue.

Several major currencies had fallen against the dollar in the last few months. Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines and Bangladesh had devalued by about 20 per cent, making the value of Indian exports more expensive. It was increasingly being felt that the rupee must be devalued to keep our competitive position in world economy.

The rupee has been stable because India held \$30 billion in foreign exchange reserves. However, exports had not increased even by 1 per cent during the period. It is also feared that the decision to hike the prices of petroleum products would further put pressure on the rupee. At the same time, the weakening of East Asian countries could push foreign funds towards the Indian market.

authorised returning officers to reject nomination papers of persons convicted even if they have appealed against the conviction.

The criminal offences for disqualifying persons for six years from contesting are listed in Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RPA). The offences include corruption, rape, impersonation, breach of the Civil Rights Act, Foreign Exchange Act, Narcotics Act and various other criminal offences.

The commission's decision will apply to eight assembly elections scheduled for next year in Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Many MPs expressed concern about the order, saying that the EC could not take such a decision. Lok Sabha Speaker P.A. Sangma expressed doubts whether the EC's directive could be implemented with-

out referring to the Constitution and without changing the RPA. The Home Ministry said that the directive could not stand legal scrutiny.

Electoral trust set up: Tata Sons take the initiative

TATA Sons has set up an electoral trust for funding political parties. This is in line with the group's philosophy that the Tatas should make voluntary contributions to political parties in a manner that is transparent, non-discriminatory and non-discretionary. The trust would distribute funds to parties for Lok Sabha parliamentary elections and not to individuals.

This is the first time in India that a business house has evolved such an elaborate scheme to fund political parties. The mode of donation would be divided in two phases. In the first phase, money will be given to parties which hold more than 5% seats at the start of the

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elections. In the second phase, money will be given to parties which secure more than 5% seats.

Funds in the trust would be held under two heads: Trust Funds and Distribution Funds. 'Trust Funds' would meet all expenses incidental to the administration of the trust. It would be used to adopt any scheme and to execute any plan towards achievement of any of the objectives of—strengthening the democratic forces with a clean electoral process, to create an environment whereby donations can be made to political parties and to help achieve a political framework for overall social and economic development of the country.

Money under the head 'Distribution Funds' will be doled out to political parties.

The trust will take contributions by non-Tata companies also. The limit for contribution is upto 5% of each company's average net profits during the preceding three previous years.

SCANDALS

Petrol Pumps Allotted by Satish Sharma Cancelled

THE Delhi High Court quashed the allotment of petrol stations and LPG and kerosene dealerships to 77 persons from the discretionary quota of former Petroleum Minister Satish Sharma, on August 29, 1997. Prominent among those whose allotments were cancelled were former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's daughter-in-law TS. Anitha, Law Secretary V.K. Aggarwal's wife Usha Aggarwal and Chandraswami's brother P.C. Gandhi.

The court cancelled almost all allotments made by Sharma between 1992 and 1996. The allottees were ordered to stop operations of outlets by December 1, 1997. The court ordered that the distributorships taken over by the government or oil corporations

would be disposed of through public auction to be held, before December 1, 1997. The value of the land and construction would be paid to the original allottee and the remaining amount would be remitted to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, to be used for social welfare schemes.

ASSAM

Centre takes initiative to tackle violence

THE month of August witnessed a spurt of insurgency in Assam. Early in the month, noted social activist Sanjoy Ghose, who was kidnapped on July 4, was killed while in the custody of United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA). An attempt to blow up the Guwahati-New Delhi Rajdhani Express was made on August 11, 1997 and a few days later a passenger train was derailed after a bomb blast, killing seven people. On August 15, a number of villagers were massacred in Lower Assam. Several army personnel were also killed. The

State, it seemed, headed for a repeat of 1983, when it seen its worst violence till date. Apart from the ULFA, the Bodo Liberation Tigers (BLT) and the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) have been active, escalating the violence. A nascent armed outfit, Bengali Tiger Force (BTF) also became active and killed six Bodos as revenge.

Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, in his independence speech, offered a safe passage to the militants if they came forward for talks. It was, however, evident from the continuing violence that the time had come for firm action.

The Central government finally intervened. Among the first steps it took was to replace Governor Loknath Misra with Lt General (retd) S.K. Sinha. The Assam government requested the services of former Punjab police chief K.P.S. Gill as security adviser. Union Home Secretary visited the State and announced the imposition of National Security Act (NSA) to tackle militancy in Assam and said that the intelligence network would be revamped.

Recent Economic News

Oil prices hiked

After months of rumours about the increase in prices of petroleum products, the government announced a modest increase on September 1, 1997. The price of petrol was raised by Rs 1 per litre and the subsidy on diesel was removed. Diesel will now be sold at the landed import price, but the impact is not likely to be felt because of a slump in international oil prices. The long pending decision would make a dent in the oil pool deficit of Rs 22,000 crore, which was impairing the health of oil companies. The latest price hike would bring in Rs 10,000 crore in additional revenue and put the oil pool account in a better shape. The last price hike was in July, 1996, when the diesel hike was 15 per cent but when it was not enough to put the oil economy back to health, making another increase inevitable. The highlights of the increase are:

- Ex-storage price of petrol up by 5 per cent.
- Ex-storage diesel price increased by 26 per cent. They are pegged with international prices and hence would change every month.
- LPG prices increased by 12.5 per cent, making a subsidy of Rs 64 per cylinder.
- Kerosene prices remained at Rs 10 per litre.
- Price rise to Rs 10.00 per litre in September 15, March 98.
- Highest diesel in the world, Rs 10.00 per litre.

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World Bank Study: India can end poverty by 2005

In its latest study titled "India: achievements and challenges in reducing poverty" the World Bank has pointed out that India can wipe out poverty by 2005 if it is able to maintain the growth and income distribution at current levels.

The country's incidence of poverty can plummet from its current level of approximately 35 per cent to a mere 6.3 per cent by 2005 with the current growth rate.

Poverty in a country like India is defined as an income of less than a rupee (about Rs 36) a day—an income inadequate to provide 2400 calories of food per person in rural areas and 2100 calories in urban areas plus basic necessities like clothing, transport and shelter.

The report also points out that India's poverty alleviation programme has certain lacunae, e.g. in some cases the government spends \$ 7 to deliver \$ 1 worth of services to the poor.

The report also says that although the percentage of poor people has decreased from around 50 per cent of the population to 35 per cent, the absolute number of people living below the poverty line has increased from 184 million in 1981 to 312 million in 1993-94 due to the increase in population.

The report has identified illiteracy as the major stumbling factor in poverty alleviation.

LAW POINT

Sexual harassment made penal offence

IN an attempt to protect women employees, the Supreme Court on August 13, 1997 ordered the provision of appropriate penalties against sexual harassment of women at work-places.

The court observed that the present "civil and penal laws in India do not adequately provide for specific protection of the fairer sex". As defined by the apex court, sexual harassment would include such unwelcome sexually determined behaviour (whether directly or by implication) as Physical contact and advances, a demand or request for sexual favours, sexually coloured remarks, showing pornography and any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature.

The court made it mandatory for Central, State, Private and public sector undertakings to ensure that women do not work in "hostile" work environment.

It directed that the rules or regulations of government and public sector bodies relating to conduct and discipline should include rules and regulations prohibiting sexual harassment and provide for appropriate penalties against the offenders. It also ordered setting up of complaints committees where not less than half its members should be women. To prevent the possibility of any undue pressure or influence from senior levels such committees should involve a third party—either an NGO or other body, who is familiar with the issue of sexual behaviour.

LAW AND ORDER

Underworld killings in Mumbai

GULSHAN Kumar, the music baron credited with changing the face of the music industry in the country with his innovative and bold business strategies, was shot dead in Mumbai as he came out of a temple after completing his prayers. A week later, Natwarlal Desai, a prominent builder, was shot outside his office. The two killings showed the grip of the un-

derworld on the city.

The first killing sent a wave of shock over the film industry. Links of the industry with the underworld had earlier been highlighted when producer Mukesh Duggal was killed and producer-director Rajiv Rai had escaped an attack on him. Several famous personalities, including Dilip Kumar, Subhash Ghai, B.R. Chopra and Shah Rukh Khan were allegedly under threat. Film personalities had also taken part in parties thrown by underworld dons abroad.

There were allegations of a nexus between the underworld, police and the government, and the Shiv Sena-BJP was finally forced to take action. After the Desai murder, it transferred 20 senior police officials, including Police Commissioner Subhash Malhotra. The new Commissioner was R.H. Mendonca and he set about his task earnestly. An underworld don, Arun Gawli was arrested.

The police achieved a breakthrough and named famous music director Nadeem as the man behind the murder of Gulshan Kumar. Investigations revealed that he felt that Kumar was ruining his career by not marketing his cassettes. The Mumbai police moved the Interpol for deportation of Nadeem, who had left the country before the murder and was reportedly in Britain but it was rumoured that he had gone into hiding in Dubai on receiving advance information about his arrest.

INDIA-PAKISTAN

Heavy firing along LoC

THREE Indian soldiers, including an officer, and over 50 Pakistani troops were killed in fierce exchange of artillery fire and mortar shelling between the two sides in Uri and Kargil sectors on August 24 and 25.

According to information, Pakistani troops resorted to heavy firing on

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the Indian pickets and villages in Kargil area, 504 km north-east of Jammu and Uri sector, 404 km north-west of Jammu. In the retaliatory measure, Indian troops destroyed 23 Pakistani bunkers and damaged 11 bunkers across Uri sector.

The unprovoked firing by Pakistan is seen as the country's efforts to keep the issue alive in the world community. The USA reportedly offered to organise a Camp David type summit. India rejected the US offer of mediation to end the current border clashes with Pakistan. Pakistan officially lodged a complaint with the United Nations Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) over the firing incidents along the Line of Control (LoC).

Uri, located on the old Srinagar-Muzaffarabad route, 100 km from Srinagar, has been a major battlefield in all wars fought with Pakistan. It forms the strategic gateway into the valley.

In October 1947, Pakistan had attempted to annex Jammu and Kashmir by force, by launching tribesmen through Muzaffarabad-Uri. The raiders had managed to reach the outskirts of Srinagar, when first elements of the Indian Army were flown in at the Srinagar airfield on October 27, 1947. The raiders were driven out and territory recaptured till Uri, where the situation stabilised, consequent to the UN-sponsored ceasefire on December 31, 1948.

In August 1965, Pakistan again launched a major infiltration campaign into Jammu and Kashmir, which was successfully contained. To counter the Pakistan infiltration an offensive was launched from Uri, and tactically important Haji Peer pass secured. However, the captured area was given back to Pakistan, as per the Tashkent Agreement.

Indian troops now continue to be on maximum alert along the LoC after the recent incident of firing.

INDIA-CHINA Meeting of the Joint Working Group

INDIA and China resolved to settle the border dispute by peaceful means and reaffirmed their commitment to develop a constructive and cooperative relationship towards the 21st century, the two-day tenth meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) held in New Delhi. The two countries exchanged instruments of ratification in respect to Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) agreement and concluded a protocol on cooperation between their foreign ministries.

The two sides also reviewed the implementation of the CBMs in the mili-

tary field along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on the India-China border. The two sides exchanged instruments of ratification and concluded a protocol on cooperation between the foreign ministries with a view to promote regular consultations.

JAIN COMMISSION Interim Report Points to deliberate acts of negligence

THE interim report submitted by the Jain Commission on August 27, 1997 on the Rajiv Gandhi assassination lays the blame of negligence on VP Singh and P Chudambaram. The latter had even tried to have the panel scrapped. The 2,300-page report tracks down the exact circumstances

FEMA to replace FERA

On August 26, 1997 the Cabinet approved the draft of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), to replace the controversial Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA). The draft relaxes the restrictions on all current and some capital account transactions, and provides for the move towards full capital account convertibility. FEMA removes some of the shortcomings of the FERA which was seen as extremely harsh and discouraged investment.

The new bill seeks to provide a legal framework for further liberalising cross-border capital flows and will be introduced in Parliament in the next session. The changes envisaged will enable the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to retain much of its existing powers to deal with foreign exchange violations, including specific cases categorised as "penal offences".

FEMA, which seeks to liberalise foreign exchange transactions in tune with the globalisation of the economy, will provide for two categories of offences, one suitable in nature with provisions for fine and penalty and provisions for summary proceedings. The ED will retain most of its existing powers under FERA in dealing with cases of penal nature under FEMA. These will include powers to investigate, arrest and arrest suspected offenders and launch criminal proceedings.

FEMA will not be applied retrospectively. The cases of foreign exchange violations will not be affected by the enactment of the new legislation.

The original draft report of FEMA had sought to empower the ED to investigate only those cases referred to it by the RBI. The earlier draft had also envisaged that the ED would stand replaced.

The Cabinet made changes in the earlier draft to ensure that the need to remove the archaic provisions of FERA is not compromised and the need to effectively tackle foreign exchange violations is not

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which enabled the LTTE to strengthen its network in the country and also highlights deliberate acts of negligence by governments at the Centre and in Tamil Nadu. The report also reveals conspiracy by the Rao government to wind up the commission.

It is an indictment of senior political leaders and bureaucrats in taking decisions which helped the LTTE to operate openly and plan out the assassination. Leaders at the Centre did not assess properly the threat to Rajiv Gandhi's life. Chidambaram, who had been responsible for monitoring the security of the late Prime Minister at that time, has been held responsible for failing to appreciate the threat and later tried to wind up the Jain Commission by filing repeated objections.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi did not respond to the Centre's policy of opposing the LTTE while V.P. Singh has been indicted for taking an imprudent and politically motivated decision in withdrawing SPG security for Rajiv Gandhi and for his inaction in limiting LTTE activities in India.

PATENT LAWS

CSIR wins case to stop US patent on turmeric

INDIA won the legal battle against patenting of healing properties of turmeric which has been long been used here as a domestic remedy. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) challenged the patent a year-and-a-half after its grant in the USA on March 28, 1995.

The turmeric case had begun after the University of Mississippi Medical Centre, Mississippi, USA filed an application for a patent at the US Patent and Trademark office for the use of turmeric powder as a wound-healing agent on

December 28, 1993.

In June 1996, CSIR took the initiative with the concurrence of the Ministry of Industry (department of industrial development) to seek re-examination of this patent. It said that there is no novelty attached to the "invention" and thus did not satisfy the important criteria of patentability. This is because the use of turmeric powder as a wound-healing agent has been known in India for centuries.

All evidence submitted by the CSIR was examined by the US patent office and finally, it rejected the arguments presented by the patent owner. All the six claims of the patent were rejected as on August 13, 1997.

This episode has brought in a major victory for India's scientific community. Earlier, efforts made by several interest groups to challenge a similar patent made out on neem had not even been entertained by the US patent office because documentation on the issue did not exist or could not be found.

ENVIRONMENT

WHO sends warning signals on Arsenic contamination

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has sounded an alarm to India and Bangladesh regarding arsenic contamination of drinking water.

According to an estimate, about 38 million people are running the risk of arsenic poisoning in West Bengal, where at least two million drink unsafe water each day. The situation is worse in Bangladesh where around 55 million have been exposed to the chemical in drinking water.

The WHO's Regional Consultation has sounded an alarm to the governments of India and Bangladesh, recommending that they place arsenic-related diseases under immediate national sur-

veillance, giving it a status similar to that of cancer.

Survey teams found groundwater in seven districts of West Bengal not meeting the safe limit of the chemical set by the WHO. The source of the arsenic has been found to be natural deposits in sedimental layers in West Bengal and Bangladesh.

WHO recommendations:

Short Term

- Identify all the patients and population at risk in one year and mark out their water sources. Provide symptomatic treatment.
- Ensure safe tubewells, pipe supply, restore/preserve surface water, harvest rainwater using appropriate technology. Provide safe drinking water.
- Strengthen diagnostic facilities at regional level, medical care at health centres for seriously affected patients.

Long Term

- Review existing arsenic removal technologies and evaluate their efficiency.
- Prepare site specific project proposals for funding and donor agencies.
- Set up national framework for arsenic related disease surveillance with national reference laboratories.

NAGAS

Peace Convention Held

A convention of Naga tribal groups ended on August 4, 1997 in Atlanta, USA, with a call for burying mutual hostilities. The statement 'Atlanta appeal' was issued by senior leaders of two underground Naga insurgent groups, and pledged for unity among them. It called for reconciliation so that political rivalries and tribal disputes could end. The convention was the first of its kind in Naga history and was also attended by senior American church leaders.

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Diana, The Princess of Wales . End of the Fairy Tale



1961-1997

Princess Diana, the most photographed woman in the world, died in a car crash in France on August 31, 1997. Her aristocratic looks drew swarms of photographers and in the end, it seemed that they were responsible for her death.

Born on July 1, 1961, Diana was a quiet child. She attended several boarding schools and developed a special affection for ballet and Prince Charles, whom she was to marry in 1981. Britain was enthralled at the fairy-tale wedding and it caught the attention of the world. The marriage, however, was doomed. The pressures of the royal marriage took their toll and Diana was said to be disenchanted. At every stage, the media hounded the couple. Charles' mother, Queen Elizabeth II, reportedly did not approve of her and there were rumours of friction within the royal household. Prince Charles was also having allegedly an affair with an old-time friend, Camilla Parker Bowles, which added to the friction. The marriage deteriorated further with rumours of Diana's alliance with her riding instructor, James Hewitt.

On December 9, 1992, the royal couple announced a formal separation. Both Prince Charles and Diana were to admit later in interviews that they had committed adultery. Then, on August 28, 1996, the marriage that once had all the qualities of a fairy-tale, came to an end. Prince Charles faded from the news but Diana remained in the headlines. The world, it seemed, had an insatiable desire for her pictures, which led to her being hounded by press photographers wherever she went. She got involved in a number of charitable and humanitarian causes, which further endeared her to the people. At the time of her death, she was lobbying for an international ban on landmines, which kill and maim thousands around the globe.

Rumours of romance too filled the papers. She was linked to Dodi Al-Fayed, the Egyptian millionaire, who died in the car crash with her. Her attempts to build her life from her traumatic past had ended in a nightmare.

Her death raised the question about the role of the press photographers, called the paparazzi, as they try relentlessly to take pictures of celebrities. Diana's car was being chased by several photographers at the time of the crash and they seemed responsible for what had happened. Even though the driver of the car was reportedly drunk, the photographers seemed directly responsible for the crash. The French police announced that they would be tried for manslaughter. The media's role was highly criticised and Diana's brother went to the extent of saying that the editors had "blood on their hands".

THE WORLD

World Mourns Two Extraordinary Women

THE world was still mourning for the tragic death of Princess Diana when

news came in the same week of the death of Mother Teresa. US President Bill Clinton said that the deaths of two of the world's most famous women offered the world a time of great reflection. Mother Teresa, he said, was "a woman of passion and compassion, one of the giants of our times." The world was profoundly moved by pic-

tures of both the famous women.

By her selfless service, Mother Teresa had become a universal symbol of human compassion. For 70 years the Albanian nun lived in India and served its poor. It was for this that she set up her Missionaries of Charity. By the time she died, it had grown to over 200 homes all over India. She had touched lives in 105 countries through more than 500 Convents. For her, to serve the poor meant losing of the self. Having no money, she begged when necessary, gave away all she received and trusted in God. *Nirmal Hriday*, or the Place of the Pure Heart, opened in 1952, to help the destitute people.

Mother Teresa eschewed public limelight, working in obscurity in the slums. But her humble approach could not hide the greatness of her work. She was conferred the *Bharat Ratna* in 1980. Among other awards, she got were: the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1962, the *Padma Shri* in the same year, the Kennedy International Award and the Pope John Peace Prize in 1979. In the same year, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1993, she received the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhawna Award.

Hundreds of destitutes, the dying and the unwanted found in her home a free meal, medical care or just a clean place to die. She was indeed a modern-day Saint.

IRAN

New President Offers Hope of Change

MOHAMMED Khatami was confirmed as Iran's new President in August, 1997. The fifth elected President came to office with heavy public support, having won elections held in May with 20 million votes. Within weeks of his take-over, he surprised everyone by nominating a woman journalist as one of the five vice-Presidents.

He scored another victory when he

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won Parliament's approval for his Cabinet.

Khatami is a moderate cleric and his victory is seen as a mandate to ease Islamic strictures imposed following the 1979 Islamic Revolution and to forge ahead with economic reforms to combat high inflation and unemployment. A former Minister of Culture, Khatami is credited with having Iranian music and cinema after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. He has lived in the West and speaks English, German and Arabic in addition to his native Farsi.

He further shocked conservatives by installing a "permissive" Culture Minister, who wants to relax State censorship as well as maintain a dialogue with the US. The Majlis opposed the appointment before giving approval.

These changes imply that winds of change are sweeping Iranian society. Khatami's win in the May 23 elections had raised hopes of loosening of society. He has stated that he would strive for development, social justice and an independent press.

CAMBODIA

Hun Sen Holds On as Fighting Continues

EVEN as fighting intensifies in Cambodia, Prince Norodom Ranariddh urged an immediate ceasefire on August 26 to welcome the return of his father King Norodom Sihanouk to his troubled country on August 23. However, the proposals were spurned by the regime of Hun Sen, who toppled co-Prime Minister Ranariddh in a coup on July 5-6, 1997.

Hun Sen's larger, better equipped army continues to face stubborn resistance from Ranariddh's men near the border with Thailand. As the fighting in Cambodia intensifies, the Thai army went on full alert. Between 2000 and 5000 resistance troops loyal to deposed First

Prime Minister Ranariddh are spread across a 25 km line about five kms at its widest point along the border and with headquarters at Rathchampey four kms from Thailand.

The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) stopped referring to exiled Prince Ranariddh as Cambodia's "First Prime Minister" saying that the situation had changed with the election of another man to the post. A US government team also met Ranariddh's replacement.

Ranariddh was earlier replaced as co-Premier and stripped of legal immunity by the National Assembly. Removing Ranariddh's immunity leaves him vulnerable to criminal prosecution.

The situation continues to be tense in Cambodia. More than 31,000 Cambodians are scattered near the border. Thailand has closed its borders, cutting off the supply of food and medicines.

NORTH KOREA

Severe drought hits the country

NORTH Korea faces an unending drought. International aid agencies estimate that about 2 million people will starve to death in the country. Its population of 24 million faces hunger and starvation as crops have failed in 1997 too.

Aid has been slow in coming since the donors do not want it to be used on the army. For its part, Pyongyang is trying to bargain that the US should give food aid before peace talks take place. The West may also feel that aid could be used as a lever to extract promises of change in the country's nuclear policies.

North Korea is not willing to give up its totalitarian policies in exchange for food. The UN has called for giving all the support without imposing any conditions, but the donors feel that they should know where the aid is being distributed.

South-East Asia Slows Down

For 13 years the Thai currency, baht, was strongly pegged to world currencies. The growth rate of the country was 8% per year and exports increased. Then in the 1990s, a number of finance companies and banks joined hands with real estate developers. The resulting property glut resulted in failure of the companies while exports declined. The once strong currency took a beating and the budget deficit touched 5%. Thailand was regarded as the fifth economic tiger after Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan and South Korea, but the bubble burst. On August 19, 1997, the Thai Cabinet approved an economic stabilisation programme negotiated with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF bail out of \$18 billion was the rescue package since Mexico's \$40 billion loan in 1995. Asian neighbours committed their funds to bail out Thailand. In return, Thailand will implement painful budget cuts and close insolvent finance companies. Thailand thus had an uncertain future far from the glories of becoming an economic tiger.

The cause of Thailand's fall was speculative investment and lending in non-productive development. It raised questions about the prosperity of other countries in the region. Could they sustain their economic miracle? The boom made them brittle but they began to look inconsistent in the face of adversity. In the past weeks, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore have felt the heat and had to devalue their currencies. The Singapore dollar lost 10% while other currencies depreciated by 15-20%. In Indonesia, the rupiah hit an all-time low and lost 20% of its value. The Asian crisis has also accused American financiers, a charge which was denied. South Korea's export policies also came into focus. Questions are now being asked if the South-East Asian nations can sustain their status of economic tigers.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL

As North Korea is not allowing any information out of the country, donors do not have estimates as to how bad the situation is, or how the aid is being utilised.

A little aid is reaching the country. But as the country plays its bargaining games, a huge tragedy may be building up, resulting in a large number of starvation deaths.

MIDDLE EAST

No breakthrough in talks as violence continues

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, reacting to a triple suicide bombing in the country declared on September 5, 1997 that Israel was no longer bound by peace accords with the Palestinians and would not hand over chunks of the West Bank by mid-1998, as was pledged once Palestinian leaders said that it was using the bombings to avoid the handover and kill the peace process.

No positive signal seemed obvious in the West Asia talks held in Jerusalem between Israel and Palestine with US mediation.

Palestinians have protested Israel's siege of their town of Bethlehem. Israel had imposed a blanket closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip after the Jerusalem market bombing. The action has barred all Palestinians including 100,000 labourers from entering Israel. Bethlehem and the nearby towns of Beit Sahour and Beit Jalla have been the hardest hit by Israel's closure. The travel ban bars more than two million Palestinians from entering Israel.

Palestinians complained that the closure constitutes collective punishment and that Israel is using the restrictions to extract Palestinian concessions at the negotiating table in peace talks. The Palestinians have been protesting against the siege and have even asked for international help.

Meanwhile, violence also continues

India top arms buyer

A US report by the Independent Congressional Research Service (CRS), titled "conventional arms transfers to developing nations" has said that the USA remained the biggest supplier of arms in 1996. The developing countries reversed their four-year decline in arms buying and increased their weapons arsenal by more than 10 per cent in 1996. Arms sales to third world countries rose to \$18.4 billion, up from the \$17.3 billion spent in 1995.

The USA was the biggest supplier in 1996. US companies sold \$7.3 billion in arms to poor countries. India signed about \$2.5 billion in new arms contracts, making it the top weapons purchaser in the developing world for 1996.

India remained at the top followed by Egypt, which ordered \$2.4 billion in new arms, and Saudi Arabia which signed \$1.9 billion in new contracts.

The 86-page study, which is based on classified as well as public information about arms transfers, notes that the increase in arms purchases by developing countries was mirrored by the world as a whole. Global sales agreements came to \$31.8 billion in 1996, the first increase for any year since 1992, when sales worth \$42 billion were signed.

The report also says that competition for arms sales, especially in the developing world, appears to be intensifying among major arms suppliers. The still-limited resources of the vast majority of poor countries, as well as the need for most selling countries for cash, are likely to restrain a major expansion in "sales".

in the region. Israeli forces have been carrying out a series of air and artillery strikes against the Hizbullah strongholds in South Lebanon. These raids have been criticised by the five-nation committee (France, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and USA) monitoring the ceasefire.

The US has been continuing with its efforts to carry on the peace talks. Israel said that Mr Arafat could not seek peace with Israel and reconciliation with the fundamentalist Islamic group Hamas at the same time.

ALGERIA

Civil War continues despite crackdown

ALGERIA has been witnessing a civil war for the past five years. In the recent incidents of violence in Algeria, more than 1000 people have been killed in different places.

Armed groups have been going around killing people. On August 30, 1997, 300 inhabitants of a poor farming village

were massacred.

The Armed Islamic Group is said to be in control of the mountainous, rural region south of Algiers. The group is trying to topple Algeria's military-backed government and install an Islamic State. So far, government offensives have been unsuccessful in stopping the militants.

Recently, in an abrupt change of strategy, the military-backed authorities have adopted a two-track approach: introducing concessions to break the stalemate while keeping up the repression. President Liamine Zeroual has vowed to stamp out the terrorists and end their attacks.

The UN Secretary General Kofi Annan condemned the massacres and said that the world could not continue to turn a blind eye to the atrocities in Algeria.

PAKISTAN

Leghari okays anti-terrorism legislation

PRESIDENT Leghari has signed a legislation to give the government

CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL

sweeping power to combat ethnic and political violence wrecking the country. Fighting between religious sects in eastern Pakistan and political violence in Karachi has led to the death of more than 400 people.

The anti-terrorism law was passed by the National Assembly in mid-August and signed by the President on August 18. This is the government's latest step to end the fighting. Under the law, police can search and arrest suspected militants without a warrant and even shoot them. Special courts will be set up to try cases quickly and a conviction will bring life imprisonment or death.

Nawaz Sharif is hard pressed to control rising violence in Karachi. The government fights the Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM) in Karachi and the Sunni and Shia sects in Punjab.

SRI LANKA

Battling to open a land route to Jaffna

THE Sri Lankan army's fight against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) continues as it battles to force open a land route to the northern city of Jaffna. Operation *Jayasikuru*, meaning "Certain victory" was launched on May 13, 1997 but the army has just progressed 25 km up the road since then. Over 530 soldiers have been killed. The operation is the latest chapter in the long war, but its outcome may determine its outcome.

Though the army had been able to liberate Jaffna in December 1995, the LTTE still controls the north-central Vanni region, cutting off civilians and troops from the rest of the country. Supplies to Jaffna have to be sent by air and sea. If the current operation is successful, it would split the rebel-controlled territory, severely affecting their ability for violent conflicts. But the army is finding the going difficult and their assault on August

19, 1997 was repelled, leaving 20 soldiers dead.

The government is, however, optimistic of liberating the land route, which is seen as the last major phase of the war. The LTTE is expected to be weakened considerably if the operation is successful. The militant organisation is now limited to bases in the north-east only.

Along with the military offensive, President Chandrika Kumaratunga will also have to search for a political solution to the Tamil problem. She has proposed an amendment to the Constitution to allow substantial devolution of power to minority dominated areas. The passage of the amendment may be difficult, since her People's Alliance holds just a single-seat majority in Parliament.

The country is already war-weary and both sides are under pressure. The search for peace may be a long one yet, even though the Sri Lankan army battles its last main challenge.

US

Clinton Trial Next Year

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton will stand trial next year on sexual harassment

charges.

A Federal court judge denied a motion by the President's lawyers to dismiss Paula Jones' sexual harassment suit against him and scheduled a trial to begin on May 26, 1998.

But US district court judge Susan Webber Wright, however, dismissed a portion of Jones' suit in which the former State employee alleged Clinton had defamed her.

JAPAN-CHINA

Japan Apologises to China

JAPAN apologised to China for the atrocities and great losses it inflicted on it during the war on September 5, 1997 and expressed its willingness to forge closer bilateral relations. During the talks in Beijing of Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Chinese Premier Li Peng, it was revealed that the Cabinet of former Japanese PM Murayama had expressed regret over Japan's invasion and colonial rule. The Hashimoto said he stuck to the official stance of the Japanese government and assured that Japan would not become a military power. The country would take the path of peaceful development and not take the 'militarist road'.

IMF Decides to Combat Corruption

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has decided to focus on combating corruption and ensuring good governance in member nations to ensure faster economic growth.

Fresh guidelines issued by the IMF executive board now empower the agency to cover not only traditional macro-economic fundamentals but also corruption and good governance as "an essential element of a framework within which economies can prosper".

Under the new guidelines, IMF will henceforward take up these issues in its annual consultations with all member nations as well as those who turn to it for loans.

IMF will be empowered to independently monitor corruption allegations and recommend stoppage of not only IMF but also other aid underway, and give or resume it only when the government concerned comes clean.

However, the Fund's interference in governance of a country including instances of corruption will be confined to its economic aspects under the mandate.

Current General Knowledge

ABBREVIATIONS

FEMA: Foreign Exchange Management Act.

UNMOGIP: United Nations Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan.

AWARDS

Abul Kalam Azad Trophy

PANJAB University, Chandigarh was awarded the Abul Kalam Azad Trophy this year. The runners up were Delhi University and the third place was held by Guru Nanak Dev University

Arjuna Awards

THE following are the recipients of the Arjuna Awards this year: *Cricket:* Javagal Srinath; *Hockey:* A.B. Subbaiah, Ashish Ballal; *Athletics:* Ajit Bhaduria, Padmani Thomas; *Boxing:* Raj Kumar Sangwan; *Carrom:* Anthony Maria Irudayan; *Golf:* Amit Luthra; *Judo:* Poonam Chopra; *Kabaddi:* Shriram Bhavsar, Neeta M. Dadwe; *Rowing:* Surender Singh Wadia; *Shooting:* Moraad Ali Khan; *Tennis:* Gaurav Natekar; *Swimming:* V. Kutraleshwaran; *Yachting:* Lt Col Kelly S. Rao (posthumous).

Physically handicapped category: *Badminton:* Sandeep Singh Dhillon; *Athletics and cricket:* Kalle Gowda.

Ashok Chakra

SECOND Lieutenant Puneet Dutta, who died fighting militants in Jammu and Kashmir, was conferred the highest peacetime gallantry award, the *Ashok Chakra*, this year.

Dronacharya Award

COACH of women's weightlifting squad, Pal Singh Sandhu, and the first Indian to win World Amateur Billiards Championship, Wilson Jones, were honoured with the Dronacharya Award, the highest award for coaches.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

THE first Indian to win an individual gold medal in a world championship, Karnam Malleshwari, fellow weightlifter N. Kujarani Devi, and Leander Paes, the lone Indian medallist at the Atlanta Olympics, were bestowed the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award. Malleshwari received the award for 1994-95 while Kujarani Devi and Leander Paes were honoured for 1995-96 and 1996-97 respectively.

DEFENCE

Space—The Fourth Dimension

SPACE will be treated on an equal footing with sea, land and air in India's future defence strategy, according to a newly-formulated first-ever "airport doctrine" of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The doctrine, based on the lessons drawn from the 1991 Gulf war, was formulated in 1995. The new dimension has been introduced keeping in view the futuristic requirements, where the core competencies of "space power" would include intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, battle management and weapon guidance.

Another hallmark of the modified doctrine lies in the new weapons acquisition policy under which future inductions will not be prompted just by what the countries of potential threat are acquiring but be guided by long-term objectives.

ENVIRONMENT

El Nino: Climate Event of the Century

THE major El Nino weather phenomenon brewing in the tropical Pacific Ocean is the largest climate event of the century, setting off more global disasters than ever before.

Scientists at a three-day UN sponsored conference estimate the El Nino developing now, likely to last upto next

year, will equal or exceed this century's strongest weather event, which hit in 1982-83.

El Nino is a warming of the waters off Equatorial South America which causes climate abnormalities around the world.

The impact can be flooding drought in California, Brazil, Africa and Australia, severe storms in the Central Pacific and a decline in hurricanes hitting the south eastern United States.

El Nino has claimed nearly 2,000 lives from floods, hurricanes, drought and fire, and caused global losses of about \$ 13 billion in damage.

The El Nino this year is likely to be the biggest, with observations of high ocean temperatures in July in 150 years. Regional manifestations of this major climate change are already noticeable in several parts of the world.

PERSONS

Kant, Krishan

VETERAN Gandhian and former Andhra Pradesh Governor Krishan Kant, was sworn in as the tenth Vice-President of India. The first Vice-President hailing from Punjab, he started out as a Congressman but was expelled from the party when he opposed the emergency in 1975. He formed a part of dissidents known as "Young Turks". He was a member of the Rajya Sabha from 1966 to 1977 and after the emergency, was elected to the Lok Sabha. A writer with a scholarly bent, Kant was among the founding members of the People's Union of Civil Liberties and was its first general secretary.

Khan, Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali

USTAD Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan of Pakistan, who died on August 16, 1997 at the age of 49, was a music genius whose art crossed national boundaries. His fam-

ily had performed *qawali* at royal courts and shrines but his father wanted him to devote himself to medicine. His destiny revealed to him in a recurring dream and in 1964, after his father's death, the 16-year old Nusrat performed in public for the first time. He received training and in 1971 became leader of the group. Millions of copies of his 125 albums were sold and drew large crowds in Japan, France and the US. He performed on movie soundtracks like *The Last Temptation of Christ* and *Dead Man Walking*. His concerts promoted cultural and religious tolerance. Much loved in India as well, he had provided the soundtrack for *Bandit Queen* and the latest hit, *Aur Pyar Ho Gaya*.

Kumar, Gulshan

GULSHAN Kumar, who was killed in Mumbai on August 12, 1997, was the son of a fruit-seller who rose to head a Rs 300-crore business. Born on May 5, 1956, he was an extremely devout person who became a millionaire at the age of 30 and the highest income tax payer in the country for 1992-93 by the time he had reached 37. His family had moved from Pakistan to Delhi in 1947 with virtually no money. When the family switched to selling music cassettes, he took over and gradually established his "Super Cassettes Industries" and his famous label, "T-Series". He launched a number of unknown singers. Often decried as encouraging music piracy, he stormed ahead to establish himself in the film industry, where his first production, "*Ashiqui*" became a big hit. The T-Series empire today consists of films, music, electronics, soap, mineral water and a number of other industries.

Mother Teresa

MOTHER Teresa, who died on September 5, 1997 at Calcutta, was among the most well-known and highly respected women of the world. She founded the religious order of the nuns, the Missionaries of Charity, in 1948. She dedicated her life to help the poor, the sick and the destitute. Her selfless work brought her much acclaim and many awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. Born in 1910 as Agnes Gonxha

Bojaxhiu in what is now Macedonia, she decided to become a nun and joined the Sisters of Loreto in Ireland in 1928. Within a year she was in Loreto Convent in Darjeeling. On May 24, 1931, she took the name after St Teresa, a Spanish nun. By 1946, she had seen enough suffering and in 1948 she obtained permission from the Pope to continue as an independent nun. She became an Indian citizen and started her work among Calcutta's poor. She had stepped down as head of the order this year because of health problems.

Spencer, Diana

DIANA Spencer, who died in a car crash on August 31, 1997, was catapulted into the public eye on February 24, 1981 when as a 19-year old nanny and sometime cook, her engagement was announced to Prince Charles, heir to the British throne. The fairy-tale wedding was held on July 29 the same year but ended in a divorce and both revealed their affairs outside marriage. The couple separated in December 1992. She was followed at every stage by photographers and her pictures appeared with a number of male companions. She finally found love with the Egyptian millionaire Dodi Al Fayed, who died in the crash with her. She was also involved in a number of humanitarian causes, which endeared her to the people. Her death was mourned by millions around the globe.

RESEARCH

Futuristic Power Sources on Trial

RESearch and Development Establishment (Engineers) is set to embark on scientific studies on fuel cell systems—futuristic sources of power that could replace all other forms of electricity generation—in close climatic conditions like Antarctica.

The fuel cells which are useful under water or in space and are being tried in the West, could replace all other known forms of electricity generation. These cells convert chemical energy into electricity using hydrogen and oxygen reaching in special fuel cell stacks causing no pollution.

Developed by the R and D (Engrs) in collaboration with Chennai-based SPIC

(Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation), the Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell (PEMFC) system would conduct tests on power conditioning to make it (cell) usable in cold climatic conditions.

These cells convert chemical energy into electricity directly, so their conversion efficiency is higher than the conventional fuel based systems.

SPACE

Mir Undergoes Repairs

THE most troublesome stint in the 11-year history of the Mir space station has finally come to an end for two Russian cosmonauts.

Mr Vasily Tisblyev and Mr Alexander Lazutkin returned to earth on August 14, 1997 after six months of misfortune on Mir, rife with breakdowns, a frightening fire and a devastating crash.

The replacement Russian crew, Anatoly Solovyov and Pavel Vinogradov, docked on Mir on August 7. US astronaut Michael Foale will remain with them on Mir until his replacement arrives later this year.

Mars Rover Climbs Hill

THE Mars Rover has embarked on its most ambitious journey yet—a climb up a hill that will give scientists a new view of the red planet. The aim was for Sojourner, as the little six-wheeled Rover is known, to climb a hill about 60 feet high.

It may seem like a small climb, but for the Rover it presents an arduous challenge that will test it severely. The Sojourner has to travel about 100 metres to the crest of the hill, negotiating boulders several times its size on the way.

Moving at slightly less than one centimetre per second, and stopping every one-quarter of a turn of its wheels to make sure it is still in contact with its mothership, the Sagan Lander. The Rover's journey will be slow and tedious. It will take more than a month to reach to top of the hill.

Cassini to visit Saturn

MORE than 6,00,000 signatures from 181 countries as well as toddlers'

scrawls, baby footprints and paw prints were attached to NASA's Cassini spacecraft, for launch to Saturn.

The oldest signatures scanned onto the digital disk mounted on the spacecraft were those of Cassini and Hygens, the 17th-century astronomers for whom the spacecraft and its moon-lander are named, respectively.

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory, in Pasadena, issued its first call for signatures in November 1995 on its Cassini Internet site. Program manager Richard Sphehalski wanted to open it up to everyone, not just team members as was the custom on earlier interplanetary spacecraft like Viking and Voyager.

As word spread, postcards as well as letters, poems, drawings and even music poured in.

All told, about 6,16,400 signatures were stored on the small, decorated disk, including some that were rather unorthodox baby footprints, paw prints of pet dogs and cats.

Discovery captures satellite

THE space shuttle Discovery picked up a free-flying satellite, named Crista-Spas, as the two craft soared 296 km above the Pacific, north of New Zealand.

The German-built satellite, which was released by the astronauts last week, has been probing earth's atmosphere to learn more about the depletion of the ozone layer. The satellite's two main instruments made nearly 50,000 atmospheric observations at altitudes ranging from seven to 185 km.

The spacecraft's most surprising finding was evidence of much more water vapour in the upper atmosphere than scientists had expected. The results seen to back a controversial theory that the earth is being bombarded by house-sized, water-laden comets thousands of time a day.

Satellite to be launched from Ocean-floating platform

THE first satellite to be launched from an ocean-floating platform called 'Odyssey' is scheduled next year in Vyborg.

The launch will be prepared and con-

ducted under an international programme involving the space agencies of the four countries participating in the project.

Work is underway to implement a major world project called Sea Launch, involving organisations from four countries—the aerospace firm Boeing (US), NPO Energiya (Russia), NPO Yuzhnoye (Ukraine), and the Norwegian ship building company Kvaerner a.s.

While the first three members are contributors to the projects as operators of modern space rocket systems and technologies, Norway is noted for its experience in building and operating floating oil platforms.

Practically, all launches today are effected from fixed cosmodromes which only a few countries can afford.

Estimates indicate that to launch a payload from an ocean platform will take approximately 30 to 50 per cent of the launching costs from a ground cosmodrome and if successful, could become very popular in the future.

MISCELLANY

Nanda Devi: Richest Biosphere Reserve

THE Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve in the Garhwal Himalayas is one of the only three declared biosphere reserves in the country. It attracts trekkers from all over the world as it is said to provide the world's most difficult trek.

The reserve lies in the upper watershed of the Alaknanda. The original sanctuary area was 630 sq km. In 1982, when it was upgraded to a biosphere reserve, the area was increased to 2000 sq km. Altitudinal variations within the reserve range from 1500 metres to 7817 metres.

Environmentalists believe that the region is possibly the last remnant today of the extensive Himalayan pastures that had existed before the advent of man.

The faunal life of Nanda Devi is extremely rich. There are approximately 86 species of mammals, 534 birds and 45 species of reptiles and amphibians. "Bharal" or the Himalayan blue sheep are the most conspicuous large mammals in the inner sanctuary. Bharal are an endangered species due to large-scale hunting for their hide and meat.

UK Medical Degree Tests in India

INDIAN doctors seeking higher education in Britain will now be able to write their entrance examination in India rather than in the European country.

The Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) tests will be conducted in New Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai (Madras) this October. India is the first country outside Britain where the tests are being conducted.

By far the largest number of doctors who sit for the PLAB tests come from India. Last year about 2,000 Indian doctors came to Britain to write the examination.

The tests in India will be conducted in partnership with the British council. The first round of tests will be held on October 20, and a further round on February 2 next year. The tests are open to any doctor resident of India.

Doctors will have to pay a fee of 265 pounds (about Rs 15,000) to appear in the test. Doctors spend much more coming to Britain and then staying on to appear in further examinations if they fail to clear the first.

Bio-smuggling

SHOULD India allow its exotic plant and animal wealth out of the country in the name of scientific research? Authorities dub it as "bio-smuggling", but scientists say rare species would wither away without such exchanges, as multinationals are patenting valuable plants and animals with an eye on profits.

If patenting of neem and turmeric (*haldi*), jolted awake the authorities, the pigmy hog case left a bitter taste. In April, two foreigners associated with the pigmy hog conservation project in Assam, were held for allegedly 'smuggling' out blood and hair follicle samples.

There has been tremendous exchange of genetic resources between tropical countries, so that even India is heavily dependent on genetic material from other countries. Export of plant and animal material is governed by regulations under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

SPORTS

GAMES

World Athletics Championships

THE World Athletics Championships were held from August 1-10, 1997 in Athens, Greece. The following were the winners:

Men's 100 m: Maurice Greene, US.

Women's 100 m: Marion Jones, USA.

Men's 200 m: Ato Boldon, US.

Women's 200 m: Zhauna Pitusseovich, Ukraine.

Men's 800 m: Wilson Kipketer, Denmark.

Women's 800 m: Ana Fidelia Quirot, Cuba.

Men's 100 m Hurdles: Allen Johnson, US.

Men's 400 m: Michael Johnson, US.

Men's 400 m Relay: Donovan Bailey, Canada.

Men's 400 m Hurdles: Stephane Diagana, France

Women's 400 m Hurdles: Nezha Bidouane, Morocco

Men's 3000 m: Wilson Kipketer, Denmark.

Men's 5000 m: Daniel Komen, Kenya.

Men's 10000 m: Haile Gabreselassie, Ethiopia

Decathlon: Tomas Dvorak, Czechoslovakia.

Men's Marathon: Abel Anton, Spain.

Women's marathon: Hiromi Suzuki, Japan.

BADMINTON

Sanyo World Badminton Championships
CHINA'S Sun Jun and Indonesia's Susi Susanti won the top men's and women's singles titles in the 1997 Sanyo World Badminton Championships held at Yogyakarta.

CHESS

Asian Zonal Women Chess Title

INTERNATIONAL women master Vijayalakshmi Subaraman clinched the Asian zonal women chess title with 7.5 points defeating her team-mate Swati

Ghate in the final round of the tournament held at Teheran.

CRICKET

Sri Lanka-India Test Series

MOHAMMED Azharuddin and Saurav Ganguly rescued India from a shaky start of 138 for 4 by contributing a 110-run fifth wicket stand, causing the second and final cricket Test in Colombo to a draw. Aravinda de Silva was awarded man of the match for his twin centuries while Jayasurya was adjudged man of the series for an average of 190 which included 340 in the first Test and 199 in the final game.

India-Sri Lanka one-day Series

SRI Lanka defeated India by 2 runs in a high scoring one-day match held at Colombo. A stand of 223 between Ajay Jadeja and Mohammed Azharuddin for the fifth wicket could not save India's defeat.

In the second one-day international at Premadasa stadium, Ganguly made 113 but Sri Lanka dominated the game, restricting India's score to an inadequate 238 in 49.3 overs.

The third and final match had to be replayed and India lost by 9 runs at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo. Needing 265 for victory in 50 overs, India were restricted to 255 for 8.

India lost the series, its sixth in a row in one-day internationals against Sri Lanka.

The Ashes

ENGLAND pulled off an amazing victory at The Oval, beating Australia by 19 runs. Phil Tufnell, the left arm spinner, took four wickets including that of Mark Waugh, to become Man of the Match. He was supported by a relentless Andrew Caddick.

SQUASH

Cathay Pacific Men's Squash Open

JANSHER Khan won his eighth Cathay Pacific Men's Squash Open held at Hong

Kong with a 14-15, 15-12, 15-7, 15-2 win over Canada's Jonathan Power. It was Jansher's 82nd major title since he made his professional debut in 1987.

TENNIS

Pilot Pen tournament

LEANDER Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi won the title in the \$1.04 million Pilot Pen tennis tournament by beating Sebastian Lareau of Canada and Alex O'Brien of the US held at New Haven (U.S.A.). This was the pair's second successive win in a final over the Canadian-US pair, after the Du Maurier Open in Montreal earlier.

The duo moved to number eight spot in the ATP Tour doubles rankings with their latest victory.

US Open

MARTINA Hingis of Switzerland beat Venus Williams of USA 6-0, 6-4 to win the women's singles final in the US Open held at New York. In Men's singles, Patrick Rafter of Australia beat Greg Rusedski of Britain to claim the US Open title. Arnaud Di Pasquale of France won the Junior boys singles title while Cara Black of Zimbabwe won the Junior girls singles final.

Brian Gottfried-Sandy Mazer of USA won the Men's senior doubles final.

Paes breaks into top 100 rankings

THE ATP rankings released on September 5, 1997 places Leander Paes at 98, his best ranking in six years. This was made possible following his superb showing at the US Open, where he made the third round.

2004 OLYMPICS

ATHENS, founder of the ancient and modern Olympics, was awarded the right to stage the 2004 Olympic games. The other cities in the five-way fight were: Rome, Cape Town, Buenos Aires and Stockholm.

The Examiner's Guess Questions

Q. What is the difference between the National Anthem and the National Song?

Ans. The song, *Vande Mataram*, composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, was a source of inspiration to our forefathers in their struggle for freedom. It enjoys equal status with *Jana Gana Mana*. The 1896 session of the Indian National Congress was the first political occasion when it was sung.

Q. Which is the national animal of India?

Ans. The tiger.

Q. Which is our national bird?

Ans. Our national bird is the Indian peacock, *Pavo Cristatus (Linnaeus)*.

Q. Which is India's State emblem?

Ans. India's State emblem is an adaptation from the Sarnath Lion Capitol of Ashoka. The original has four lions, standing back to back, mounted on an abacus. In the State emblem adopted by the government on January 26, 1950, only three lions are visible, the fourth being hidden from view. The words *Satyameva Jayate* from Mundaka Upanishad, meaning, 'Truth alone Triumphs' are inscribed below the abacus.

The emblem can be used only for official purposes of the Government of India and the State governments. It is the official seal of the President, Central government ministers and ministries, Diplomatic Missions, Governors and Chief Commissioners, and ministers and Departments of State governments.

Q. Which day was observed as the Kranti Divas?

Ans. August 9, 1997. It was on August 9, 1942 that Aruna Asaf Ali unfurled the Indian flag. Mahatma Gandhi's call of "Quit India" ignited the hearts and minds of every Indian.

Q. What is the amount spent in

subsidising kerosene in the last three years?

Ans. The kerosene subsidy amounted to Rs 14,280 crore in the last three years. Though the price of kerosene was increased from Rs 3.69 per litre in 1995-96 to Rs 5.18 per litre in 1996-97, the subsidy bill in the last financial year increased to Rs 6,350 crore from Rs 4,190 crore in the previous financial year.

Q. What is the famous line of Jawaharlal Nehru with which he welcomed freedom 50 years ago?

Ans. It was his famous "tryst with destiny" speech, which begins, "At the stroke of midnight hour when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom."

Q. Where was the biggest national flag hoisted recently?

Ans. Andhra Pradesh, which gave the country its tricolour, celebrated the golden jubilee of India's independence by hoisting the biggest national flag ever produced. It measured 270 feet in length and 72 feet in width. It was hoisted on the secretariat building.

Q. Which museum in India is launching a "mobile conservation laboratory"?

Ans. The Indian museum at Calcutta is launching an "mobile conservation laboratory" to help smaller museums across the country in the upkeep of cultural relics.

Q. Who has directed the film based on *Train to Pakistan*, a novel by Khushwant Singh?

Ans. Pamela Rooks.

Q. Where has the first mobile police station been established?

Ans. Hoshiarpur in Punjab. It is a fully furnished vehicle, manned by one sub-inspector and other staff and will halt in different localities in the city to dispose of

complaints on the spot.

Q. What is the name of the first seismic vessel of ONGC which was decommissioned recently?

Ans. *M.V. Anveshak*. The first seismic vessel of the ONGC was decommissioned after 22 years of service. The Rs 4 crore vessel had joined the seismic navy in August, 1975.

Q. Name the people who have been nominated to the Rajya Sabha.

Ans. Nine people have been nominated to the Rajya Sabha. They are: Veteran journalist Kuldip Nayar, film actress Shabana Azmi, scientist Dr Raja Ramanna, film maker Mrinal Sen, social worker Nirmala Deshpande, writer Kartar Singh Duggal, former UPSC member M.S. Selvi Dass, Jnanpith awardee poet C. Narayan Reddy and social worker Chaudhury Harmohan Singh.

Q. Who are the paparazzi?

Ans. The Italian word for "buzzing insect", it is used for photographers who stalk celebrities for their pictures. Felini's film *La Dolce Vita* celebrated one such photographer as a character named Paparazzo. The photographers have been held responsible for Princess Diana's death. "You make my life hell", she had once screamed at those who hounded her relentlessly.

Q. Who has written the script of the film on Mother Teresa which has been the subject of a controversy?

Ans. Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre.

Q. Where was the peace talks among Naga groups held recently?

Ans. Atlanta, USA.

Q. Name the Indian cricketer who crossed his 7,000 runs in one-day cricket recently.

Ans. Mohammed Azharuddin.

Appointments Etc

APPOINTED, ELECTED ETC.

Krishan Kant: He has been sworn in as Vice-President of India.

Vincent Slew: He has been named Prime Minister of Taiwan.

Lt Gen S.K. Sinha (ret'd): He has been appointed Governor of Assam.

Yannis Alexis: Ambassador of Greece to India.

RESIGNED

Krishan Kant: He submitted his resignation as Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

DIED

Diana Spencer: Princess of Wales.

Mother Teresa: Roman Catholic nun, who founded Missionaries of Charity and spent her life in the service of the poor.

Gulshan Kumar: Music baron and owner of Super Cassettes Industries.

Mukul Anand: Film director.

Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan: The sub-continent's best known singer and performer

K. Surendran: Malayalam novelist and playwright

EVENTS

AUGUST

- 12—Music baron and Super Cassettes Industries owner Gulshan Kumar is gunned down by three unidentified youth after he emerges from a temple in Andheri in Mumbai.
- Floods in Rohru in Himachal Pradesh leave 158 dead. Property worth crores is washed away.
- 13—The Supreme Court prohibits sexual harassment of women at work places while laying down guidelines and norms in existing legislation.
- 14—The golden jubilee celebrations of India's independence begin, with Parliament enacting freedom at midnight.
- 16—Bodo militants shoot dead 13 persons in Assam.
- 21—Krishan Kant is sworn in as the tenth Vice-President of India.
- 24—Heavy exchange of fire between India and Pakistan along the Line of Control in the Uri sector in Kashmir results in casualties on both sides.
- 25—The Union Cabinet approves the draft Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) which seeks to replace FERA and move towards full convertibility of rupee.
- 26—Low intensity firing continues at the Kashmir border as Pakistan com-

plaints to the UN Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) and India rejects US offer to intermediate.

- 28—Banking services grind to a halt as bank employees go on a two-day strike
- The Jain Commission of Inquiry probing Rajiv Gandhi's assassination submits its interim report to the government.
- The Election Commission orders that no convicted person would be allowed to contest elections.
- 29—At least 300 people are brutally murdered in the worst attack of Islamic insurgency in Algeria.
- The Delhi High Court cancels the allotment of 77 petrol pumps made during the tenure of former Petroleum Minister Satish Sharma.
- 30—Islamic insurgency claims 47 more lives as Algeria plunges into a vortex of violence.
- 31—Princess Diana is killed in a car crash in Paris. Also killed in the crash is her companion Dodi Fayed.

SEPTEMBER

- 1—The six-day golden jubilee Parliamentary debate concludes with adoption

by Lok Sabha of a 14-point agenda that includes fighting corruption and ridding the polity of criminals.

- 2—Armed robbers carry out the world's biggest robberies stealing more than 53 million francs from a Zurich post office.
- Centre asks Punjab government to get its sanction before prosecuting police officers for any offence committed during the President's Rule in the State.
- 3—Interpol is asked to detain music director Nadeem in the Gulshan Kumar killing case.
- 5—Mother Teresa dies of a heart attack in Calcutta.
- 7—Suspected ultras of the banned Maoist Communist Centre gun down 10 supporters of the CPI(M-L) in South Bihar.
- 8—Prime Minister I.K. Gujral asserts that India will not make nuclear weapons but prefer its nuclear option to meet unforeseen circumstances.

MILESTONES

Ali Akbar Khan: *Sarod* maestro, who has been honoured with America's prestigious National Heritage Award.

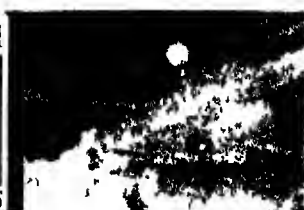
Sqn Leader Sanjay Thappan: The IAF officer, who created a world record by sky diving with a national flag measuring 2,226 square feet. The Guinness Book of World Records lists an American national who jumped with a flag measuring 2,005 sq feet while the record was held by Pal Borgan of Norway for jumping with a 2,100 sq feet flag.

Jamel Balhi: The French photographer who walked 12,000 km from Paris to Lhasa, capturing on film the images and characters of diverse socio-religious landscapes. He has earlier undertaken similar assignments from Paris to North Cape, Perth to Sydney, through former Yugoslavia and the old silk route.

Masadur Rahman Baidya: The first orthopaedically handicapped Asian swimmer to cross the English Channel.

Ajit S. Puri: Chief Medical Officer at Punjab University, Patiala, who has been nominated "Man of the Year—1997" by the American Biographical Institute.

CASSINI



The Cassini Orbiter's mission consists of delivering a probe (called Huygens, provided by ESA) to Titan, a satellite of Saturn, and then remaining in orbit around Saturn for detailed studies of the planet and its rings and satellites. The principal objectives are to: (1) determine the three-dimensional structure and dynamical behaviour of the rings; (2) determine the composition of the satellite surfaces and the geological history of each object, (3) determine the nature and origin of the dark material on Iapetus' leading hemisphere; (4) measure the three-dimensional structure and dynamical behaviour of the magnetosphere; (5) study the dynamical behaviour of Saturn's atmosphere at cloud level; (6) study the time variability of Titan's clouds and hazes; and, (7) characterize Titan's surface on a regional scale.

Cassini's instrumentation consists of: a radar mapper, a CCD imaging system, a visual/infrared mapping spectrometer, a composite infrared spectrograph, a cosmic dust analyzer, and radio and plasma wave experiment, an ultraviolet imaging spectrograph, a magnetospheric imaging instrument, a magnetometer, and an ion/neutral mass spectrometer. Telemetry from the communications antenna will also be used to make observations of the atmospheres of Titan and Saturn and to measure the gravity fields of the planet and its satellites.

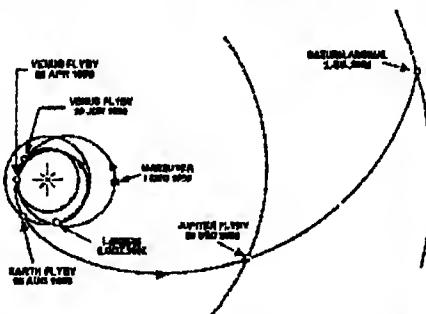
The Cassini flight system is composed of the launch vehicle and the spacecraft. The spacecraft, in turn, is composed of the orbiter and the Huygens probe. Launch date is set for October 6, 1997.

The Cassini spacecraft, including the orbiter and the Huygens probe, will be one of the largest, heaviest, and most complex interplanetary spacecraft ever built. The orbiter alone will weigh 2150 kilograms. When the 350-kilogram Huygens probe and a launch vehicle adapter are attached and 3132 kilograms of propellants are

loaded, the spacecraft at launch will weigh about 5600 kilograms. Only the two Phobos spacecraft sent to Mars by the former Soviet Union were heavier.

Because of Saturn's distance from the Sun, solar arrays are not feasible power sources for the spacecraft. To generate enough power, such arrays would simply have to be too large and heavy. Thus, the Cassini orbiter will get its power from three radioisotope thermoelectric generators or RTGs, which use heat from the natural decay of plutonium to generate direct current electricity.

The Huygens probe, supplied by the European Space Agency (ESA), will scrutinize the clouds, atmosphere, and surface of Saturn's moon Titan. It will be designed to enter and brake in Titan's atmosphere and parachute a fully instrumented robotic laboratory down to the surface. The Huygens probe system consists of the probe itself, which will descend to Titan, and the Probe Support Equipment (PSE), which will remain attached to the



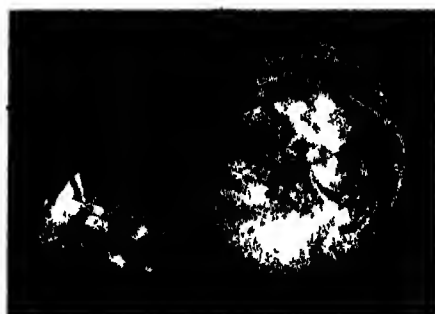
orbiting spacecraft. The PSE includes the electronics necessary to track the probe, to recover the data gathered during its descent, and to process and deliver the data to the orbiter, from which it will be transmitted or "downlinked" to the ground.

The probe will be released from the orbiter on November 6, 2004 and will be targeted for a high-latitude landing site on the "day" side of Titan. The probe's encounter with Titan is planned for November 27, when it will enter the atmosphere at a velocity of 6.1 km/s. The entry phase will last about 3 minutes, during which the probe's velocity will fall to about 0.4 km/s. Three parachutes will be used during the probe's descent.

The probe's entry into Titan's



atmosphere—which is mostly nitrogen, with some methane and argon—will cause a shock wave to form in front of the 2.7-m-diameter front heat shield. The plasma in the shock, just forward of the shield, will reach a temperature of around 12,000 deg C, which is approximately twice the surface temperature of the Sun. Simultaneously, the deceleration force on the probe will reach its maximum of around 16 g. The high temperature and deceleration pressure are design drivers for most of the probe structure. The outer shell of the probe must also be able to withstand the extreme cold (–200 deg C) of Titan's atmosphere without buckling.



NEXT ISSUE More on CASSINI

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Prasar Bharti: Disturbing Questions

The present United Front government at the Centre has dusted off the Prasar Bharti Bill (conceived feverishly by the National Front government in 1989), and converted it into a tangible reality. It had been then described as a "Charter of freedom to give voice to the people of India".

Whether the Prasar Bharti becomes the voice of the people of India, or his master's voice, is the million rupee question which raises its awkward head. Conceived on the BBC pattern, it would take over the functioning of the government-owned electronic media and function as a single "genuinely autonomous body—innovative, dynamic and flexible—with a high degree of credibility".

The words read fine but "a high degree of credibility" is an ideal which even the BBC has not always achieved or sustained. In the Indian context, where string-pulling, inefficiency and political expediency are the only order of the day, it is likely to prove Orwell's famous dictum: All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others! The oracles who wear judicial wigs may often fail to draw a fine line of distinction between publicity and propaganda.

In the circumstances prevailing in the country at present, marked by dysphoria and degeneration, the possibility of the guardian angels at the helm of affairs turning it into an

empire, cannot be wished away. The imperial culture and temperament are visible in practically all spheres of our life. The power-wielders are only remotely accountable to Parliament. And about the Parliament not much complimentary can be said at the present. The speaker says that he is ashamed of being the Speaker of the House!



An autonomous corporation can thrive only on a transparent, incorruptible work and media culture. A look at the autonomous bodies in the country reveals a sorry and sordid spectacle. Take universities, for example, once respected as sacred cows, are now hot-beds of rampant inefficiency, non-work and scientific infamies!

The guardian angels of Prasar Bharti can only be fish from the pond where all of us belong. If the

spring is contaminated, the water cannot be but impure. Fed on the culture of gifts, wining and dining, there will be likely a rash of professional disloyalty, cowardice and lack of ethical commitment. There is a defaming silence on these issues. Added to this the danger of retired civil servants, judges and politicians holding plum jobs.

True fortitude is reflected not in rhetoric but in action that justice warrants and wisdom guides. That, we are afraid, is a tall order.

READERS' FORUM

The best two letters of the month appearing in the box have been awarded a prize of Rs 100.00 each. Readers are invited to send us their views on topics covered in this issue. You can also mail your response to desht@ch1.vsnl.net.in. The decision of the Editors will be final.

THE EVOLVING INDIAN

Your cover feature (September 97) was brilliant. There is no doubt that our national character has changed a lot since independence. The only way is to realise our follies and reform ourselves is through self-criticism. The need of the hour is to regenerate the national character so that we can regain our lost glory.

Biplab Saha
Khanakul Hooghly, West Bengal

Many magazines published articles on the independence day but 'Evolution of the Modern Indian' was stupendous. The fact that Martians could not find a typical Indian is that our country has so many nations in itself. Whether we live in affluent cities or in the remotest village, the higher we get educated and civilised, the more we lose touch with civic cleanliness and etiquette. All is not lost, however. Because of the values that many of us still believe in, India continues to be a great country.

Thomas Kallanchira
Rugadipunt Orissa

NATO EXPANSION

Your article on NATO's Partnership of Peace (September 97) was very useful. The US continues to dominate the NATO in spite of the end of the cold war. However, it is not just a military alliance any longer. Peace encourages prosperity and economic growth and it is the interest of nations to live peacefully. NATO is, thus, fulfilling a useful role.

Sandeep Bhojwal
Jalandhar, Punjab

CORRUPTION AND SATYAGRAHA

The debate on whether corruption

can be removed by satyagraha was interesting. When law-makers themselves become law-breakers, no satyagraha will help. If only the politicians had more qualities of satyagrahis—nationalism, dutifulness and responsibility—perhaps the PM would not have made such an impractical suggestion that common people should launch a satyagraha. The onus is really on the leaders and not on the suffering people.

Partha S. Das
Bahanta Khurda, Orissa

TELEVISION AND BOOKS

Your topic 'Television tells books educate' was very good. Today, when young people run towards glitz and glamour, this message is very relevant. We should encourage the reading habit so that the ill effects of watching too much television can be countered.

Amit Kapoor
Kanpur, UP

CHARGESHEETED POLITICIANS

Lal Bahadur Shastri resigned when he was Railway Minister owing moral responsibility for a train accident. But it seems that there is nothing that can make our present-day ministers give up their chair even after they have been charged with corruption. There should be a constitutional reform so that people who have voted for a leader can boot him out as well. Only then will the arrogance of the elected representatives decrease somewhat.

Rajib Kumar Jishi
Subarnapur, Orissa

SUCCESS STORIES

I have been able to secure second position in the UP PCS '96. I would like to thank COMPETITION MASTER which has helped me in my preparations. It is the most comprehensive magazine for awareness and career building.

Alok Singh
Allahabad, UP

I am a student of Master of International Business in Kurukshetra University. My success was due to the proper

CORRUPTION AND SATYAGRAHA

It is said that example is better than precept. It would, therefore, be better if the politicians themselves emulate the ideals of honesty. Many of our leaders are known to be so corrupt that even a mention of their name produces a sense of hatred. The present government is itself guilty of trying to protect those against whom charge of corruption have been filed. What good will satyagraha do in this case? I wish the politicians reform themselves instead of giving impractical and worthless ideas.

Sajjan Kumar Baidya
Risra, Hooghly, West Bengal
Received via e-mail

DALIT PRESIDENT

By referring to Mr. Narayanan as the "first dalit President", we actually belittle the man. Mr. Narayanan has not been part of dalit politics as is practiced today, that is, by placing too much emphasis on symbols and too little work for the downtrodden. He did not go around wearing his caste on his sleeve, like Mayawati did in UP. Instead, he is a sincere man who has risen by his own efforts. Let us not try to take away his achievement by calling him the first dalit President because that implies that he has risen on the caste factor alone, which is not true.

Rina Dua
Calcutta, West Bengal

guidance by COMPETITION MASTER. The study matter published by you is really helpful.

Sudanshu Waha
Kurukshetra, Haryana

I am glad to inform you that I have been selected as an army officer through the Service Selection Board. I attribute my success to the COMPETITION MASTER.

Shanu Dev Kungotra
Inf. Division, J0 99 APC

ESSAY

Discretion is the better part of valour

BOTH in war and peace, at home and abroad, on a bed of roses and in a tight corner, it is the discretion (good judgement) that proves the better part of valour (bravery). "He is one of the noblest conquerors who carries on a successful warfare against his own appetites and passions", said T. Edwards.

In every walk of life, some moments come when confusion and consternation create a cobweb of doubts and depression. Under the circumstances, a mind equipped with sound judgement gives a far better account of its control over the enveloping darkness than an act of valour or valiance taken on the spur of the moment, in haste.

In an armed conflict, when the two warring armies are engaged in confrontation and no-holds are barred to upstage the enemy, offence may be thought to be the best defence and the valour shown in a particular situation, the virtue of the highest order. But "sometimes an orderly retreat is better than victory" (Napoleon). On the battlefield, the discreet general is guided more by his experience and maturity of judgement than by a head-long attack on the enemy. The strategy to win is always backed by tactical moves, subterfuges and surprises that outwit the enemy and force it either to abandon or bite the dust. In almost all situations, especially the ticklish or tortuous ones, the two forces of brain and brawn in us work at cross-purposes, but, more often than not, it is the brain (discretion) that helps us to cross the hurdles and come out of the crisis.

In almost all trials that we confront during the short span of our life, the two

traits—intellect and muscle power—are our best wherewithal. The strength or the weakness of our character is measured in terms of discretion and valour, by the precedence of one over the other. Life, as we all know, is neither a sweet song nor a morbid melody. Sometimes, under pressure or provocation, we may lose our poise and try to rush where even the angels fear to tread. Highly stung, some of us may go in for some thoughtless action, confusing it with valour or self-sacrifice.

As an existentialist, one ought to have the freedom to decide for oneself what should be done, after giving due consideration to the pros and cons of the proposed action. Discretion, as our friend and guide, stands by us through thick and thin. In some cases, it may happen that even good-intentioned valour may produce a consequence entirely upsetting and unsettling our concerns and calculations. In that case, once again, it is discretion that chisels the angularities and chastens the disconcerting developments.

As captives of circumstances, at times we may be denied the freedom to change our chained condition. The gift of discretion that each individual is endowed with may not prove as much timely as the sentiment of valour, where the supreme sentiment "to do or die" remains the only option. Same is the fate of a soldier who fights for a cause and allows no opportunity to escape his sense of duty and valour on the battlefield. For him "there is not to reason why" but to be ever prepared to show his bravery, even if he is out-numbered or out-

classed. His chivalry is his ornament and his valour is the only virtue that he wears on his sleeves. In his case it is not so much the role of discretion as that of the passion to do something spectacular and spontaneous. But, neither his sacrifice nor a unique show of valour belittles the relevance of the dictum that 'discretion is the better part of valour'.

From the cradle to the grave, while we play our different parts on the stage of this world, the inalienable ingredient of discretion, that may be imperceptible to the naked eye, remains our best bet. In all stages of human development, 'haste makes waste' because the element of judgement is missing when we jump to a conclusion before pausing and thinking. Discretion is like the reins of a wild horse that keeps the animal in us under check. Days of heroism are few but those of discretion and prudence are always knocking at the door. We cannot afford to allow discretion to lie low or to go on leave. It has to remain in a state of readiness, because without its presence and alacrity, we are bound to commit follies and lay bare our innate foibles and freaks of temper. Lest we are caught on the wrong foot or our bluff is blasted, we ought to be guided more by discretion than by valour for the simple reason: 'discretion always proves the better part of valour'.

"The world is governed much more by opinion than by laws. It is not the judgement of courts but the moral judgement of individuals and masses of men, which is the chief wall of defence around property and title. With the progress of society, this power of opinion is taking the place of arms", said Channing.

November: Before and After Independence

Before Independence

The long array of events which occurred during November, in the pre-independence history of India, include organisation of Gadr Party in San Francisco by Lala Hardyal with the help of Ram Chandra and Barkatulla on November 1, 1913; starting of Non-Brahmin Movement on November 20, 1916; announcement by British Cabinet about the setting up of a Reforms Commission under the chairmanship of John Simon on November 8, 1927; Lala Lajpat Rai's succumbing to injuries on November 17, 1928; commencement of First Round Table Conference at London on November 15, 1930; historic disappearance of Jai Prakash Narayan on November 9, 1942 from the Hazaribagh jail.

Harijan Tour

After announcing suspension of the Civil Disobedience movement till April, 1934, on November 7, 1933 Mahatma Gandhi started the All-India *Harijan* tour for propagating *harijan* cause. While starting the tour, Mahatma Gandhi announced that he would make collections for *harijans* during the tour. His programme included visit to *harijan* quarters. Notably, before actually commencing his tour, Mahatma Gandhi, on November 3 in '*Harijan*' explained his definite plans on how the funds collected during the tour would be disbursed. At the first leg of his tour he reached Nagpur on November 8, where, during his address to a huge meeting at Chitnis Park, he said, "Removal of untouchability is my religion." Moving from Berar then to Bilaspur, on November 29 Gandhiji concluded his tour to Chhattisgarh.

White Paper

After the Third Round Table Conference, when the whole scheme regarding the future Constitution of India was

thrashed out, British Government issued a White Paper. The Paper indicated working basis of the new Indian Constitution with dyarchy at the Centre and responsible Government in the provinces. A Joint Select Committee, including, besides others, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, was constituted to look into various related aspects. The committee submitted its report on November 22, 1934. It recommended certain changes in the structure of the Federal and Provincial Legislatures. It eventually paved the way for Government of India Act, 1935

After Independence

The epoch-making array of events of November, in the after independence history of India, include Dr B.R. Ambedkar's presenting Draft Constitution to the Constituent Assembly for discussions on November 4, 1948; passing of Indian Constitution by Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949; transfer of Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam to India by French Government on November 1, 1954; formation of Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh on November 1, 1966; signing of Farakka agreement by India and Bangladesh on November 5, 1977; commissioning of India's highest TV tower 235 metres at Peetampura, New Delhi on November 7, 1988; Rajiv Gandhi's submitting his resignation as the Prime Minister on November 29, 1989. In this section we shall focus on the 'Petrol Hike' of 1973 and achievement of the 'Indian Cricket' during the months of November.

Petrol Hike

Compelled by the pressures from Oil Producing Countries, on November 2, 1973 Indian Government announced a steep hike in the Kerosene (Rs 0.28 per litre), Petrol (Rs 1.07 per liter) and gas

(Rs 1.60 per cylinder). And, to check on fuel consumption by Central ministers and their personnel staff, the government restricted petrol consumption to maximum of 10 litre per day. Thereupon followed an interesting sequence of events. On November 5, 1973 Prime Minister Indira Gandhi abandoned her motor car and used horse-driven *bugghi* to travel from her residence to the Secretariat, whilst her security personnel travelled in cars. Reacting to this move, on November 10, President of Delhi Unit of Jan Sangh V.K. Malhotra lodged a complaint with the New Delhi Police that by riding a horse-driven *bugghi* Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had violated traffic rules. Later, on November 12, Atal Behari Vajpayee arrived in Parliament in Bullock Cart, as 15 MPs, including President of Bharatiya Jan Sangh Lal Krishan Advani, pedaled their way on bicycles.

Indian Cricket

The month of November registered some historic moments for Indian Cricket. For instance, on November 4, 1951, on the third day of the Test against MCC, Vijay Merchant registered his highest score (154), Hazare scored 164 not out to take over Merchant's record and together Hazare and Merchant scored 211 for the third wicket. On November 7, 1994, while playing against West Indies, Navjot Singh Sidhu became first Indian to register five tons in one-day matches. India won the tie with mere four runs. At Wankhade Stadium, Bombay, on November 7, 1996, by defeating South Africa, Sachin Tendulkar as captain lifted his first Trophy for India. It was during this match that by taking catch of Hudson, Md Azharuddin became third cricketer in the world to take 100 catches in one-day international matches.

PARAGRAPH-WRITING

Model Paragraphs

"Every burnt book enlightens the world."

—Emerson

A book is primarily meant to be read, understood or enjoyed and analysed. Opinions and comments, though personal, become collective and cohesive when they coalesce and conform to a near consensus or unanimity. If a book, different in concept, treatment and factual presentation, sweeps off many an established view or belief, it does not merit banning or burning under any circumstances. When such a situation is allowed to take place in any civilised society, the consequences may prove quite contrary to what the fanatics may have anticipated. A burnt or banned book fuels the curiosity of people and every means, fair or foul, is used to procure a copy of the same. Thus, even those who may have nothing to do with the subject of the book, spend many a sleepless night to peruse it and get educated or enlightened by the printed words that have been barred to see the light of the day. A burnt book becomes a craze and a carrier of new ideas, and newly explored and researched facts which are so essential and imperative to jolt the apathetic and the abject acolytes of false notions and incomplete icons.

"Among a people generally corrupt, liberty cannot long exist."

—Edmund Burke

If not curbed and controlled in time, the collusion between corruption and crime can spell doom both to the community as well as to the individual, for whom liberty of thought and action are his august assets. No society can

hope to lead a healthy life when its members fall an easy prey to the temptation of making easy money on the sly (secretly). Corruption leads to criminalisation of politics which in turn spreads an awful atmosphere of despair and despondency. When, without bribery, nothing moves in offices, people lose faith in honesty and uprightness. When the tentacles of corruption spread far and wide and affect a majority of human beings, the liberty to move, travel and transact business without greasing somebody's palm, becomes a captive and gradually dies or disappears. Any society that condones corruption as a way of life, is bound to decay and become the consequential cause of its own moral sickness and political undoing.

"More men have been knocked off balance by gold than by love."

—Benjamin Disraeli

Nothing knocks a person off his sense of proportion or propriety as the lust and lustre of gold. Love, as is commonly known and experienced, is blind but the desire for gold and other worldly acquisitions is both devious and devilish. There is beauty and bliss in love whereas in the chase to acquire more and more material possessions, many men lose their peace of mind. Love may make a lover or beloved, immortal if such a passion is true and platonic, but the mania for the glittering gold may not prove as lucky and favourable for the worshipper of Mammon. More crimes and blood of the innocent have been committed and shed by those who in their madness to fill their coffers with gold, got deranged and kicked all other virtues away from their lives

and preferred to live and die as stony beings in the midst of their gold and gory greed.

"A poet looks at the world as a man looks at a woman."

—Wallace Stevens

True to say and reiterate at every turn and twist of life that a poet draws his inspiration from the multi-coloured and multifarious spectrum of the world that lies around him. A man finds fulfilment of his emotional self in the personality of a woman who invites his attention and fascinates him in more ways than one. The world that lies scattered before the poet in a variety of forms is the true manifestation of some spell that brings out the creative culture of a poet's mind and imagination. There is nothing as stirring and stimulating to a poet's fancy and creative impulse as the inexhaustible fountain of beauty and blessing that all creatures, landscape, moon, stars and the sky, flora and fauna and, above all, the ever-echoing voices of life in things, both animate as well as inanimate, feed and fire into his fancy (imagination). If this were not so, human beings would have been deprived of the classics, masterpieces and master-minds of all ages. Since a poet finds the food of his concepts and images in the ever young and changing world around, he expresses it in his immutable style and substance and enriches the moments of life for all those who care to read and recite poetry. A man's life would have been dull and dreary, if he had not looked at the woman as an object of love and care and concern because without the presence of a woman in a man's life, both are incomplete and incoherent.

ARTICLE

Voluntary Disclosure Scheme: Tapping the Black Money

It is a matter of common knowledge that black money has assumed serious dimensions in India. The parallel economy which exists in India has blocked sizeable funds from the developmental stream of the economy. With a view to tap the black money and channelise it towards economic development, the Finance Minister, during his Budget speech for 1997-98 Budget, promised to introduce a Voluntary Disclosure Scheme to unearth the black money, collect tax on it and use it for developmental purpose.

Salient Features

VOLUNTARY Disclosure of Income Scheme (VDIS-1997) was launched on

July 1, 1997 for a period of 6 months. A separate set of rules for VDIS were issued on June 9, 1997. Termed as one of the most attractive schemes of voluntary disclosure, the scheme has certain striking features. As per the scheme, any person can make a declaration about the undisclosed income. The declaration can be made to the Commissioner of Income Tax of the area on a prescribed format. This has been done to ensure that no delays occur in the process. While the individuals are required to pay 30 per cent tax in advance, the companies and firms have to pay the tax at the rate of 35 per cent. As the tax is required to be paid before filing the declaration, such

declaration has to be accompanied by the proof of payment of tax.

In case a person is not able to pay the tax beforehand, he may do so within three months and shall have to pay a simple interest at the rate of 2 per cent every month or part of the month. The interest will be payable from the date of declaration to the date of payment of the tax.

In case of the individual, the declaration can be made by the individual himself. But in case of a Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), company, firm or an association, the declaration can be signed and verified by the persons specified in Section 65 of the Finance Act 1997. In addition, a person can

We have toiled hard
for the last
12 years to stand tall
.....above the rest

make declaration in different capacities, namely in individual capacity, as Karta of HUF or as representative of a firm, Company or Association. Nothing contained in the declaration shall be used against the declarant for the purpose of any proceeding relating to imposition of penalties or launching of proceedings under the Income Tax Act, 1961, Wealth Tax Act, 1967, Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 or the Companies Act, 1956. Moreover, the particulars furnished by a declarant shall be kept a secret. No court or any other authority shall be entitled to require any officer of the Income Tax Department or the declarant himself to produce any such information before it in any case.

Voluntary Disclosure of Income can also be made in the form of jewellery. But in such a case, the value of the jewellery shall have to be substantiated by a registered valuer's certificate. In case the jewellery declared is from a period before 1987-88, the value for the purpose of declaration shall be taken to be the value as on

1.4.1987. The declarations would also have no effect on the previous assessment and the disclosure made in respect of any previous assessment year shall not affect the finality of any completed assessments. Such income shall not be added to the total income of the declarant, if the declarant credits such amounts in his or her books of account and intimates the credit so made to the assessing officer.

VDIS has certain other provisions. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), which drafted and finalised this scheme for the government, has clarified that the two types of income cannot be declared— firstly the income assessable for any assessment year for which notice u/s 142 or 148 of the Income Tax has been served and return has not been furnished before 1.7.1997, and secondly, income relating to a previous year for which a search has been initiated or a survey u/s 133A was carried out.

Immunity under the VDIS-97 shall, however, be not available to certain offences. It does not apply to the order to detention

made under Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 (COFEPOSA). The immunity is also not applicable to the persons notified under Section 3 of the Special Courts (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Act, 1992. The immunity under VDIS-97 is also not available to certain offences covered in the Indian Penal Code (IPC), individuals involved in drug trafficking and narcotic sale, involved in terrorist and disruptive activities, involved in the Prevention of Corruption Act, etc.

Rationale

VDIS-97 has the same rationale as its predecessor schemes of the similar nature. It is generally believed that the executing agencies, at times, find it extremely difficult to enforce all the provisions of taxation laws and many individuals and corporates manage to evade some tax. Such accumulated wealth, commonly called the black-money, finds it difficult to

LEADERS IN IAS COACHING

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get into the lawful investment of the economy and even the evader cannot use it for legitimately expanding his own business. This, on the one hand provides the economy with attractive tax-revenue over and above the regular collection, on the other hand, makes the declared money available for future investment resulting in enhancement of the general economic activity in the economy, on the other.

A cash starved economic system obviously looks forward to such schemes. At such a juncture, the funds generated by the VDIS-97 would go a long way in alleviating the financial stringency being faced by the government.

No such scheme can be very successful unless the target groups realize that, if caught, they would be in for much bigger trouble. To generate this feeling, it is being widely publicised that the raids would continue and any one, once raided, would be rendered ineligible to opt for the VDIS-97. To coax more number of takers, the scheme has kept the tax rate at reasonably lower level of 30 per

cent for individuals and 35 per cent for the firms and companies. Further, a feeling needs to be strengthened that it is the very last chance and shall have no successors. Although the government is publicising it as the last chance for voluntary disclosure, yet a lot more is required to be done in this direction. Unless this is impressed upon the target group, it would be difficult to achieve the desired goals of the VDIS-97.

Critique

THE pious aim of reforming the deviants may sound euphoric but a lot of scepticism continues about the Scheme. Amidst the hopes of resounding success are the sounds of cacophony even in the government circles. While the CBDT claims that through the VDIS-97 it would close on to the smaller and bigger tax evaders, this is also being regarded as a cover up for Board's own failure to crackdown on big evaders. By various critics, the Scheme has been described as highly unethical, having

demoralising effect on the honest tax payers. While the honest tax payer paid the tax at the rate of 40 per cent, the evaders, after having used the illegal income for years, have been invited to pay just 30 per cent and get away with it! A virtual surrender of the government before the tax evaders, the Scheme represents the inability of the enforcement agencies to curb the tax evasion. Such schemes tend to discourage the honest tax payer, coaxing him to be dishonest in future and wait for such amnesty.

Yet another demoralising factor is that, as was revealed during one of the press-conferences, the scheme was formulated and announced on request from the "willing" people from the parallel economy. The tax payer is dismayed at this revelation whose genuine requests for tax concessions are rejected while such schemes are formulated for the benefit of those who have defrauded on the economic system.

One of the greatest weaknesses of the VDIS-97 is that while immunity has been assured to the declarant from the Central

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laws, no such immunity was granted from the State laws. The government of India only hopes that since the States are to receive 77.5 per cent of the collection, they would cooperate and not enforce their laws to such tax evaders. This logic may not prevail with various State governments who may decide to prosecute the guilty and at the same time demand their share of 77.5 per cent out of disclosure amount collected. Even at the government of India level, the immunity is only under the specified provisions of the Acts. It is not a general amnesty. It means that a declarant may be nabbed by the government after declaration, if it is found that he was guilty of other offence not specifically provided for in the list of Acts under which immunity is ordered by the government.

Even though the scheme was lauded as the most attractive scheme so far, not many people are hopeful about its being a grand success. If an evader has escaped the government net by not paying the taxes, the question is that why should he now pay

30 per cent tax. Same is the case with the corporates who, by declaring their black money, may not like to lose their image in the market. In addition, even during the past inquiries were initiated against the declarants on one pretext or the other. Both these factors would certainly act as dampner for the declarants under VDIS-97.

Corrupt politicians may also play a major role in rendering this scheme lacklustre. Of late, the corruption in higher places has shocked the entire nation. The tax evaders who are close to the powerful political brokers may take shelter of their mentors and refuse to declare their black money, assured by the fact that close vicinity to such politicians may help them in avoiding income tax raids in future. It is also known that during past, many voluntary disclosure schemes were introduced by the government. It is, thus, not wrong to presume that even in future such schemes would be introduced by the government, notwithstanding the declarations that it was the last chance to the tax evaders.

The confusion about amnesty to FERA violators has also discouraged many prospective declarants. Several circulars were issued by the government after launching the scheme, with the aim of providing certain clarifications, but these clarifications further complicated the matters. The targets given to all the Commissioners of Income Tax may not be met under the above circumstances.

Despite the apprehensions about the scheme there can be no two views about the perfect timing of the scheme. It was launched during the year when the maximum rate of personal tax was brought down by 10 per cent to 30 per cent. Economically speaking, whatever amount is collected under VDIS-97, would definitely do good to the economy. Rather than getting consumed for conspicuous consumption, if such incomes are properly channelled and invested, the multiplier effect would augment the economic activity manifold. Sincere effort on part of the government would go a long way in making VDIS-97 to be a success.

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SPECIAL FEATURE

South East Asia's Currency Crisis

The fact that the international economic system is fraught with risks was shown once again as currencies of South East nations collapsed in July 1997. A similar collapse of Mexico in 1994 had showed that a crisis can strike most unexpectedly and this year, Thailand took a fall from its supposed status of economic tiger hood. After its currency had taken a considerable beating, and attempts to defend the baht had failed, the country accepted an economic stabilisation programme negotiated with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which could best be described as painful. Other currencies of the region took a similar beating at the hands of speculators. The collapse showed how countries relying on foreign capital are open to risks and how the bubble could burst without the least warning.

In this feature, we describe the currency crisis of a region that was fast coming up and acquiring dominant economic status, the bail out by the IMF and what the crisis means for India.

THE currency collapse of South-East Asia came unexpectedly, without the least warning. Currencies of several nations took a severe beating: the baht declined 30% against the US dollar. The Central Bank of Thailand spent \$23 billion from its reserves to stop the decline but the attempt turned out to be futile. The Malaysian Ringgit, the Indonesian Rupiah and the Philippine Peso were to follow, and each currency was devalued. Countries which were regarded as emerging regional economic powers suddenly found themselves pushed back and it is evident that they have a long way to go before they can claim to be economic tigers.

For Thailand, a country that had all

the signs of becoming an economic tiger, it was indeed a big come-down. Placed fifth after Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea, the country was doing very well—GDP growth, averaging more than 8 per cent a year, was 6.7 per cent in 1996. Exports from the country were at a healthy level and it was fast acquiring an enviable economic status. There was a flood of foreign money as well, fuelled by domestic companies which borrowed from abroad to take advantage of low interest rates there. Loans to the private sector grew from 39% of GDP in 1992 to 123% in 1996.

In retrospect, the signs of something being wrong had existed for a long time. Though there was a heavy influx of foreign money, much of the development was limited to urban centres, where large construction projects had begun. Though Thais bought luxury cars like the Mercedes in plenty, the country's education system was starved of funds. The country had become famous for the thriving sex industry, with girls from rural areas taking to prostitution to escape the poverty. The foreign money was evidently being spent on luxury expenditure or speculative building projects. Could this be sustained for long? The bubble ultimately burst as the growing current account deficit could not be sustained any longer. The baht started to fall, as speculators made a fortune. It was time for the country to pay for its extravagant ways.

After the crisis, Thailand was forced to accept a \$16.7 billion rescue package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the biggest since the package offered to Mexico. The country now must impose stiff austerity measures and reduce

the current account deficit from 8% of GDP in 1996 to 5% in 1997 and 3% in 1998. Inflation has to be within 8-9% and a growth rate of 2-3% must be maintained. Public spending, except for essentials like education, public health, social welfare and infrastructure, must be reduced. Japan, which had invested heavily in the country, pledged \$4 billion and there were commitments from Australia, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore as well, since the economy is so inter-linked and the fall of one nation will undoubtedly affect others.

Financial companies in Thailand were closed down and many more would be allowed to go bankrupt. It is clear that the country has entered a painful phase and has years of hard labour before it can aspire to be an economic superpower of the region.

The mistakes that the country had made were similar to the mistakes that countries make when they are flush with foreign capital. Instead of investing into industry or productive assets, the money went into high profile building projects in urban areas. The government encouraged investments in steel mills though the country has neither iron nor coal. Instead of going into high-tech areas or to improve quality of goods to compete with China and other Asian countries in the international market, the foreign capital was largely undisciplined and speculative. It fuelled a construction boom and created buildings for which there was no demand. Instead of going into productive areas, it went into speculative and unproductive areas. Thailand, for example, was the eighth-largest buyer of Mercedes in 1995.

The Speculators Strike

THE crisis evidently resulted out of imprudent spending. In economics, the age-old adage still holds strong—that one should spend only as much as one earns and all loans have to be repaid. One can borrow for improving productivity, but what these nations were doing is to use the borrowed money for ostentatious spending. People in these nations seemed to have given up traditional values like thrift and hard-work and went for wasteful displays of wealth instead. Spending in education was the lowest in the region, at 4% of GNP, so that trained people were always in short supply. The rising property prices created the impression that there was a shortage of buildings.

Currency speculators knew only too well that such a lifestyle could not last and waited for an opportunity to strike. No country could sustain high currency rates along with large current account deficits. The speculator who came into the limelight was George Soros, an immigrant to the US from Hungary. The way speculators like Soros work is by anticipating economic shifts around the world. They keep a look-out for currencies which may rise or fall and make money by speculating against them. For example, if a currency is expected to fall, they borrow it in large quantities, convert it into other currencies and repay the borrowed amount once the prices fall, at a lower rate. Soros had become famous in 1992, when he had earned \$ 1 billion in a single day by speculating against the British pound.

This time his activities earned him no goodwill from Asia's leaders. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad called him a "moron" and a "criminal" and said that Soros had attacked Asian currencies to punish the nations for admitting Burma to the ASEAN. The fact, however, remains that nations simply could not sustain their high levels of unproductive expenditure based on foreign capital. The bubble had to burst, though it cannot be denied that it was aided by the speculators.

The Future

THE collapse of the Asian markets raised questions about the "Asian miracle". True, nations must use foreign capital judiciously, as an aid to development. Part of it must go into speculative areas as well, which tends to overheat the economy. The solution then is to keep a strong control on the way the borrowed funds are used. Countries have faced crises before, but have recovered after implementing budget cuts, reducing State spending or correcting economic policies. Could they do so again?

After the four Asian countries devalued their currencies, the question about the future of the so called Asian Tigers and their ability to recover became uppermost.

Many experts feel that there is no such thing as an "economic miracle" that these countries are credited with. There is nothing special about Asian values, they say, because international economics is governed by a different set of rules. When countries borrow foreign capital, they appear to be doing well, but, they do not have strong fundamentals, in the form of technology and competitiveness, the economy collapses. The Asian countries lack strong fundamentals in varying degrees.

Over the years, major shifts have taken place in the world. For example, China has slowly but steadily opened its economy. Wages are low, which attracts multinational companies and foreign capital. It has also developed regions which are high-tech islands, which would give it a distinct advantage over countries that rely on low-tech exports. The pragmatic policy of Chinese leaders, under the "one country, two systems" approach, is attracting foreign capital in the country. Given such shifts, it is doubtful that South-East nations will continue to be attractive to investors, which will in turn, lead to their economic slowdown. The future of the Asian miracle, therefore, seems to be uncertain. The austerity measures in Thailand may well turn out to be permanent, if the country does not learn to compete with China and other countries of the region.

Lessons for India

THERE are critical lessons for India from this crisis. The country is opening up in recent years and wooing foreign capital in a big way. The high real estate prices in the metros has already resulted in a construction boom. Though economists say that the country is not in danger of getting into a similar situation as Mexico or Thailand, some of the problems of our economy are chronic: first, the exports can never keep pace with imports and second, the high oil import bill. Add to this a corrupted political class, which lacks the will or ability to be economically responsible. The result is a country open to all kinds of threats.

The lessons from the crisis is to curb profligacy. Evidence of just the opposite is evident in many decisions that the government takes daily. It recently gave in to threats and announced pay-hikes of government employees while the legislators are demanding more salary and perks for themselves. The railways are in such a poor shape that increase in fares seem imminent. At every stage, the government has taken soft options and increased spending on populist and non-productive measures. At the same time, productive expenditure like modernisation of industry and investment in high-tech areas plods on at a very slow pace indeed.

There are many similarities of our economy with Mexico and Thailand. In our country too, the rural areas and crucial sectors like education have been neglected. At the same time, the country is spending on non-productive assets in a big way: luxury cars, electronics and real estate are the areas which everyone wants to get into. State governments seem to be in nobody's control, like the recent UP Chief Minister who spent large amounts of money in carving out new districts and installing statues all over the State. Will such profligate behaviour create a Thailand like situation here?

The country may not be under a direct threat but surely irresponsible spending has a limit. The answer whether the rupee is strong or not may therefore lie with the men who are despised today: speculators like Soros, who are no doubt looking for their next target even as our bureaucrats claim that all is well with our economy.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Indo-US Relations: A New Chapter

Relations between India and USA have historically been marred by a pronounced Pakistan tilt of successive US administrations. Signs that they may be changing were evident during the meeting of Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral with the US President Bill Clinton, on September 22, 1997. The meeting had much significance because it showed for the first time that the US was treating matters like Kashmir as bilateral issues and would not let these stand in improving relations with India. A new team in the US administration and a fresh approach to the affairs of the sub-continent bode well for a new chapter of Indo-US cooperation. This feature describes the changing equations, the points of disagreement between the two countries and what can be expected in future. India, today stands at a historic moment when it can make up with a powerful country, relations with whom have been marked by many ups and downs. Our leaders have a unique chance to turn the tide of history.

INDIA'S relations with the USA in the past can best be described as cool. Though there has never been a cause for direct confrontation, there have been many irritants. India's friendship treaty with Russia and its commitment to the non-aligned movement always stood in the way of normalisation of relations between the two countries. For its part, India was continually peeved at the belligerent US attitudes towards Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and its strong pro-Pakistan tilt. That tilt became pronounced after the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, when Pakistan became a strategic counter to Russian dominance in the region. As a result of this policy, USA passively accepted transfer of missiles and help from China to build Pakistan's nuclear weapon programme, even though

it claimed to be against nuclear proliferation. Its attitude towards Kashmir and turning a blind eye to Pakistani terrorism was also a major irritant for India.

The break up of the Soviet Union, and Afghanistan becoming a non-issue in the international arena, did not result in much of a change in US attitude towards Pakistan. In 1994, during the Rao-Clinton summit, the two leaders negotiated on a new extradition treaty, an agreement on renewal energy resources and a treaty on protecting bilateral investment. But any hopes of improvement of relations were soon dashed, with pronouncements on Kashmir by US officials, notably Robin Raphel, intellectual property rights and the threat of trade sanctions and to put India under the Super 301 clause. In a major setback to India, the US Senate approved the supply of sophisticated weapons worth \$368 million to Pakistan under the Hank Brown amendment.

Relations with the USA suffered a severe set-back with the passing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) on September 10, 1996, which was opposed by India, much to the chagrin of USA.

A New Approach

It has taken some time for the USA to come round to realise the folly of its approach. Whatever may have been India's approach to Russia, it has always remained a democratic country. It is committed to free markets and is gradually removing government controls. Its record of human rights, freedom of the press and civil liberties makes it quite similar to USA. A large untapped market makes it lucrative for US companies. The changing equations after the break up of the Soviet Union also makes it pragmatic to have a Indo-US coopera-

tion, if only to counter the steady influence of China in the region. Others speculate that President Clinton may actually be trying to play the perfect diplomat in South Asia and trying for a place in history, now that the Middle East is proving difficult and has reached a stalemate.

There are other compulsions as well. US investment in India is \$ 1.2 billion, which is expected to go up to \$ 10 billion by 2001. The country can ill afford to ignore the growing market, simply for the historical reason of being friendly to Pakistan, which does not have such a huge market. There is also a view that Clinton's changed approach could be because of his wife Hillary Clinton's sympathy for India. Her 1995 visit and meetings with Ela Bhatt of the SEWA and later with Mother Teresa, had endeared the country to her. She may thus be India's ally in the US.

Whatever be the compulsions, there is a perceptible shift in the US approach towards India and Pakistan. This was evident in the meeting which Clinton had with the Prime Ministers of both the countries on September 22, 1997. Issues like Kashmir were recognised to be bilateral ones and the President made it clear that the US did not wish to interfere on the issue. It was for the first time in about five decades that such a change in stance had occurred.

The insistence that the US was not interested in bilateral issues was an entirely new approach and presented many opportunities. This meant that US wanted to build relations with India, irrespective of India's relations with Pakistan. In a sense, the foreign policy has been "de-coupled" and both countries would be treated separately by the US administration, representing a major change in thinking. There is

indeed a great opportunity for India to cash in on the new thinking. However, some irritants remain.

US Expectations

IMPROVED relations with the US are based on expectations that both sides have of each other. The US wants India to open its markets further so that American business interests can be expanded. India's stand on the CTBT is also a major irritant to the USA.

The US insists that India sign the NPT and the CTBT and open its nuclear facilities for inspection. India had rejected the CTBT last year. The strong stand taken by the country, however, defined the limits to which India could be pushed and sent a message that the country could not be taken for granted. The USA also wants that India should give up its missile and space launch programmes. India insists that its option should be open, surrounded as it is with nuclear arsenals of Pakistan and China.

The CTBT is likely to figure in future Indo-US negotiations. The treaty is almost a prestigious issue with the US government. President Clinton described it as "longest sought, hardest fought prize in the history of arms control" and India's stance has been a cause of concern. Director of US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, John Holum, has talked of India's isolation and its defeat in acquiring a permanent seat in the UN Security Council because of refusal to sign CTBT. There is a lobby which thinks that India's refusal to sign the CTBT should be punished.

The improved business environment in the country has also led to a large number of US companies coming to India. The country not only has a large, untapped market but has a huge potential as well. US companies look anxiously for India to open up its insurance sector, which has been closed so far. There are further expectations on matters relating to intellectual property rights, patent issues and easing of restrictions on the import of a large number of items.

What makes the country attractive to

US businesses is a commitment to economic reforms, which are now irreversible. Changes in governments at the Centre has not resulted in a radical change in policy. There are hopes of further deregulation and full convertibility of the rupee. Compared to the crumbling Pakistani economy, India makes a more attractive option for US businessmen. If US expectations are met, commercial interest in the country will only increase.

For its part, India wants that the US recognise it as a "great nation" and support its bid for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. While the US has dropped Kashmir from its agenda, India wants it to recognise that there is no dispute on the issue at all. India also wants that the US recognise that its stance on the CTBT is based on the country's threat perceptions rather than merely wanting to embarrass the US administration.

Above all, India too wants better trade relations with the US. It wants its technology, precision machines and computers and better access of US markets for textiles, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Clearly, both nations will gain from better trade relations; it may be remembered that Chinese diplomacy has succeeded with the US mainly because of the commercial interests of US businesses in China.

Learning from China

THERE is much to learn from China vis-a-vis improving relations with the US. Keeping aside political ideology, China went ahead and invited foreign capital in a big way. So great became the American interest in that country that irritants like alleged human rights violations by China, the US attitude to Taiwan and even China's disregard of intellectual property rights, were swept under the carpet. Both countries agree that there are differences, but do not let those differences cloud mutual relations.

China has also given the concept of "ping-pong" diplomacy. Realising that China was a distant country in American imagination, it made efforts to change

American perceptions by participating in games such as basketball and baseball, using the opportunities for improving bilateral contacts. At the time of Nixon's historic visit to China, it organised ping-pong matches in the USA, which helped America to shed some of their attitudes towards the mysterious, oriental country. India can learn a lot from the way China went about changing perceptions and must do similar things to get American public opinion on its side, now that positive signals are emerging on the Indo-US front. It may be remembered that Pakistan is unlikely to stay silent on the changing tilt and will certainly do everything to spike improved Indo-US relations.

The shift in stance in US policy must be used by India to maximum advantage. Prime Minister Gujral has made a good impact with his visit. The "Gujral doctrine"—of allowing concessions without expecting a return—went down well with the Americans. India should insist on essential interests, like China has done, and must always be open to trade relations. The key for long-term relations with the US lies in establishing business interests and thereby increasing support in the US Congress for the country.

It also must be remembered that though there is perceptible shift in US policy towards South Asia, it is only a beginning. The country's leaders must shed their belligerence and its distrust for the "foreign hand" and look for ways that improve relations. The foreign office must change its style of functioning too. Indian bureaucracy operates on the assumption that all information is secret and nothing should be volunteered. With the result, India's world view is not always known to US policy makers. If Indian concerns were better known, perhaps other countries would realise the basis of India's stand.

Foreign policy cannot continue like it has. Being opaque will only get us enemies, not friends. When dealing with USA, it must be remembered that openness counts. If the bureaucracy does not change itself, the hopes generated by the Gujral-Clinton meeting this year will soon evaporate as in the past.

DEBATE; DISCUSSION

Do Public Figures Have A Right to Private Lives?

The death of Princess Diana in a car crash in Paris, resulting from a very high speed chase of her car by photographers, raised several questions about media obsession with celebrities and to what extent a famous person is entitled to a private life. Diana's brother blamed the media squarely for her death. The editors who paid high prices for her pictures had created such a demand that photographers went to ridiculous lengths to get a picture of the famous princess.

There are two sides to the question: first, what the photographers are just doing their job and secondly, whether public figures have a private life. In this issue we debate an issue which came up unexpectedly but is of great importance because even in India celebrities are harassed though not as furiously as in the West.

Mr A People all over the world were shocked at the way Princess Diana died in a car crash in Paris in the most tragic of circumstances. News reports say that her car was pursued by several photographers, or paparazzi, at a speed of up to 100 km per hour, which could have unnerved the driver and caused the crash. It seemed such a sad and needless end for a woman loved around the globe. The press had pursued her at every stage, even publishing her pictures while she was bathing or relaxing with friends and now they had a direct hand in her death. The greed of the photographers was obvious from the fact that some of them took the pictures of a trapped Diana as she was dying in the car and offered them for sale to newspapers. Fortunately, there were no buyers for them, but it did bring to light a most inhuman attitude—rather than help a person in distress, the photographers just

wanted to take pictures and make money out of the accident. In fact, they had to be shooed away from the accident site by the police. The episode raises many grim questions. First, is it justified to pursue celebrities at every step for a nice photograph? Second, do the celebrities not have a right to be themselves? And third, what about the ethics of the press, which is meant to inform, educate and serve the public interest, but many of the pictures published by them do neither? The answers to these questions are very important and must be resolved.

Mr B You have initiated the debate very nicely. But before we condemn the press outright, let us also look at the activities of the celebrities. Princess Diana, for instance, used the press to build up her own image and nobody can deny that the media contributed to her aura. Other personalities have done the same. Madonna, for instance, has posed for outrageous pictures to promote her music. Closer home, actresses have frequently dropped clothes and inhibitions for film magazines in order to promote their careers. When the celebrities themselves give up their private self, is it not natural that the media will start pursuing them for more spicy pictures? Of course, I am not defending the photographers who were chasing Diana's car resulting in the accident, but I think that celebrities love the media attention they get. It is not like a hunter chasing a victim. The media, on its part, is just fulfilling its purpose of providing information about the celebrities and people do like to read about them and see their pictures.

Mr C You are correct but only up to a point. True, people like to read about famous people but surely not how they spend their private time. What possible public interest is served by publishing pictures of a lady in a swim suit or when she is relaxing? The media has created an artificial market for such pictures. For example, you may buy a paper just out of curiosity to see what is inside but that does not mean that there is a demand for that kind of picture. The argument that celebrities use the media sometimes, and should not mind when the media pursues them, is also bogus. Celebrities use the media because it allows itself to be misused. And even if someone has misused media to some extent, it does not mean that the entire life of the celebrity should be mortgaged to the photographers. Imagine what a human being would be going through just for being famous. He cannot go to a private holiday just to be with family and friends without lenses peering from a distance. Before Diana, Jacqueline Kennedy was thus pursued and some photographers even went underwater to take pictures of her swimming. This really is ridiculous. How would you like to be pursued thus? If we put ourselves in the situation, we might understand the torture that one goes through and the price that one has to pay just for being famous.

Mr D Let's accept that being famous will always attract curiosity. Film stars in India attract the same kind of interest. Whenever they go to a city, a crowd gathers. Magazines and newspapers vie with each other to publish their

pictures and interviews, even though they have nothing original to say. It is really impractical to suggest that people stop being curious about them. When one is famous, one also becomes rich. So the celebrities should hire their own security to protect themselves from unwanted intrusion into their private lives. Many film stars do that. The trouble with people like Diana was that their activities are very high profile. For instance, Diana was highly promiscuous and this attracted natural curiosity among her admirers. Everyone loves the latest gossip, so newspapers can hardly be blamed to offer high prices for her pictures.

Mr E Do you mean public figures do not have the right to live normally? If they have something to say, they can always call a press conference. Why follow them around like scavengers? There should be a code of ethics for the media so that it does not become a nuisance. The idea about our culture being different is not correct too, since Indian newspapers also publish such pictures. Take a look at the international pages of any newspapers and you will find useless pictures many a times. These pictures are easy to get from foreign wire agencies and are used without even thinking. Indian newspapers are also guilty because they too have published pictures of Diana. So you cannot say that things are different here than they are elsewhere.

Mr A I think you are right. But coming back to the point whether public figures should have the right to private lives, I would say that celebrities are after all human beings. We must remember that a celebrity is a person and has a right to live life like everybody else. Why should anyone restrict anybody else's life merely to satisfy the prurient needs of others? Imagine the bad effects the constant pursuing would have on their children. They cannot live like normal people and must always be careful. I think it is very cruel when somebody is forced to live a restricted

life. It must be quite unnerving for anyone to be chased at all times, plus the fact that one cannot show natural emotions for fear of being photographed by someone. I certainly think that no human being should be without the right to public life. Imagine living in a glass house and knowing that all one's emotions and activities are being watched by the people at all times! The newspapers which created such a system have been most inconsiderate and inhuman.

Mr B Why should they put a limit on themselves? Let us remember that the photographers are merely doing their job. They are always called upon to cover important events. They rush to accident or war sites to get pictures and inform the world about the truth. We do not complain about that. Diana's death was tragic indeed, but we do not know for certain that the paparazzi were the cause of the crash. They may have been chasing the car but the driver was also drunk—so who is to blame? Let us remember that a photographer is a mere chronicler. He does not and should not alter events. He is also satisfying the curiosity of the people and that is why newspapers pay high prices for the pictures. An average person surely wants to know about the activities about his favourite hero, including all the personal details. Famous people are role models. So the pictures do satisfy a need, however vulgar or base it may seem.

Mr C I disagree with you. If you are arguing that all human needs should be met, you will then say that pornographic pictures should be printed in the papers as well. What is the limit to which we will go then? Publishing personal details is all very well, but pictures do violate the privacy of a person. The camera lens is, after all, an extension of the eye and its implacable gaze can twist human destiny. Someone mentioned about Madonna and the Indian actresses who get themselves photographed in outrageous poses and that they do not have

a right to complain about photographers. I would say that everyone has a public face and a private face. There are many things that we say or do publicly but surely that does not mean that our private lives should be restricted because of that. Actors and actresses have to do many things because it is their profession and show business does require a little boldness. If the newspapers use those pictures, it is because they will profit from them. So it is a matter of mutual benefit. If one voluntarily poses for pictures, that should not mean that he has no right to a private life. If that happened to everybody, most of our leaders, politicians, godmen and businessmen would lose their jobs because the compulsions of their jobs require that they speak many things publicly which they may not practice in private lives. The public may have curiosity, but it does not mean that all curiosity must be satisfied. The media would do well to apply a one-line formula in such cases: does it serve the public interest? If it doesn't, it should refrain from paying photographers for taking pictures of celebrities in compromising situations or personal moods.

Mr D Many aspects of the question have been discussed and the question that is recurring is, "Why should access to celebrities be limited only to what they want published? Do the people not have a right to know about those whom they admire?" The answers to these questions are tough, but I feel that they have been answered. First, celebrities are human beings too and must have their share of privacy. Second, though the public may want many things, there have to be limits. We cannot force a person into a life of seclusion merely because a person is famous. That is very cruel indeed. As the press ponders about its role in the West, we in India too must assess whether blind following of media practices is a good thing. We should not wait for another tragedy but learn voluntary restraint.

MANAGEMENT

Business G.K.

Match the companies with their founders

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| I Arvind Mills | a) Raj Narayan Gupta |
| II Bombay Dyeing | b) Uttambhai Mehta |
| III BPL | c) Ramkrishna Dalmia |
| IV GTC Industries | d) Nandlal M. Dhoot |
| V JK Industries | e) TPG Nambiar |
| VI Iloyds Steel | f) N N Wadia |
| VII MRF | g) Kasturbhai Lalbhai |
| VIII Snam Industrial Enterprises | h) Lakshmi Singhania |
| IX Torrent Pharmaceuticals | i) Charat Ram |
| X Videocon International | j) K M Mammen Mappillai |

1 Which famous personality endorses Ariel detergent powder?

- a) Shabana Azmi b) Hema Malini
c) Javed Akhtar d) None of these

2 Which brand uses the famous quote, "All media are an extension of some human faculty" in its advertisements?

- a) Opel Astra b) Sony
c) Daewoo d) Samsung

3 Which brand has a copyright on the number '31'?

- a) Daewoo b) Kwality Walls
c) Nirula's d) Baskin Robbins

4 With which company would you associate the numbers 505, 512, 517 and 554?

- a) Kodak b) Levi's
c) Maruti d) Aggarwal Soap Co.

5. Which brand advertises itself with the line, "Every girl must have two friends One to gossip with and one to gossip about"?

- a) Lakme b) Revlon
c) Elle 18 d) None of these

6 Naresh Goyal is the chairman of a private airline in India. Name the airline:

- a) Sahara b) Jet
c) NEPC d) East-West

7 Tobacco companies in the US have agreed to stop advertising aimed at youngsters. One of such images, of a camel, will no longer be used. What was the name of the famous camel featured on all the packs of the brand?

- a) Cool Dude b) Johnny
c) Smart Puss d) Joe Camel

8 In marketing language, who would be referred to as 'pink collared workers'?

- a) Working Women
b) Company Directors
c) Air hostesses
d) Hotel attendants

9 Name the company founded by Thomas Alva Edison?

- a) Westinghouse
b) General Electric
c) 20th Century Fox
d) Warner Brothers

10 Coca Cola created a flutter recently by shifting its account from McCann Erickson to a different advertising agency. Name the new agency.

- a) Chaitra Leo Burnett
b) HTA
c) Lintas
d) Ogilvy and Mather

11 Who is the chairman of Indian Hotels Co?

- a) M S Oberoi
b) Charanjit Singh
c) Ratan Tata
d) None of these

12 Which company has launched the first electronic cash card in India?

- a) Kotak Mahindra
b) SBI
c) Bank of Baroda
d) Escorts Finance

13. Which company has bought a major stake in Asian Paints recently?

- a) Nerolac b) Berger Paints

- c) British Paints d) ICI

14. Which foreign group has applied for permission to set up a joint venture with the Kirloskar Group to manufacture automobiles?

- a) General Motors b) Toyota
c) Hyundai d) Honda

15 What is the new name of Damania Airways?

- a) Skyline NEPC
b) Archana Airways
c) Khemka Airlines
d) None of these

16. Name the brand of batteries launched by BPL?

- a) Duracell b) Long-life
c) Excell d) Energiser

17 Which company has recently introduced a product or service called "Smart Box"?

- a) DHL b) Skypack
c) Overnite Express d) Blue Dart

18 After its success in the vegetable oil market with the brandname 'Dhara', NDDDB is now venturing into mineral water. Name the brand.

- a) Jaldhara b) Dhara II
c) Jal-ganga d) None of these

19 Ranked in terms of assets, which group tops the list of India's biggest industrial houses?

- a) Ambanis b) Birlas
c) Tatas d) Goenkas

20 To which company does Premier Auto (PAL) want to sell its car business to?

- a) Peugeot
b) Piaggio
c) Fiat
d) General Motors

21. "Solitaire" is the brand name of which of the following products?

- a) A new car to be launched by Honda
b) Handcrafted crystalware by La Opala
c) Computer game by Microsoft
d) A new whisky by McDowell

ADMISSION ALERT

The Competition Master's Guide to Opportunities

This feature alerts our readers about forthcoming examinations and opportunities. Institutes should send us information well in advance to be included here. Readers are advised to assess their own suitability and that of the institute before applying—this feature is not a recommendation of any course or institute.

Aviation

Aircraft Maintenance Engineering—Eligibility: Class 12 in science stream. Age 16-23 years. Apply to Institute of Aviation and Technology, Nageshwar Tangi, Bhubaneswar - 751 002 with a DD for Rs 150.

Engineering

1. Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE-98)—Eligibility: B.E., B.Sc. or integrated Master's Degree. Last date: November 3, 1997. Date of Examination: February 8, 1998. Form available at SBI branches or apply to Chairman, GATE, IISc Bangalore - 560 012 or IITs at Delhi, Mumbai, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Chennai, with a DD for Rs 650.

2. Common Entrance Examination for Design (CEED-98)—Eligibility: Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Architecture or Fine Arts. Examination Date: February 15, 1998. Last date: November 17, 1997. Apply to Chairman, GATE, IIT Bombay, Powai, Mumbai - 400 076 with a DD for Rs 150.

Junior Research Fellowship

UGC JRF and Eligibility for Lecturership—Eligibility: Master's degree with minimum 55% marks and age less than 28 years for JRF and no age limit for lecturer. Examination date: December 28, 1997. Apply on the prescribed format to Secretary, University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi. For details see Employment News, September 13, 1997.

Management

1. PG Diploma in Business Management (2 years)—Eligibility: Graduation with minimum 50% marks. Written test: CAT on December 14. Last date for CAT: October 13, 1997. Last date for IPE application: January 31, 1998. Apply to Admissions Officer, Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE), Osmania University Campus, Hyderabad - 500 007 with a DD for Rs 600. Also apply to CAT.

2. PGDBA (2 years)—Eligibility: Graduation with minimum 50% marks. Written test: January 3, 1998. Last date: December 6, 1997. Apply to ICFAI Business School IBS, Road #3 Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500 034 with a DD for Rs 75.

3. PG Programme in Rural Management (2 years)—Eligibility: Graduate with minimum 50% marks. Written test: December 21, 1997. Last date: November 10, 1997. Apply to Admissions

Co-ordinator, Institute of Rural Management, Post Box No. 60, Anand - 388 001 with a 16x23cm stamp with Rs 8 stamps.

4. PG Diploma in Management (2 years)—Eligibility: Graduates with minimum 50% marks. Written test: MAT on December 7 or G-Indomat on November 30, 1997. Apply to Institute of Business Administration and Training, N-2/94 IRC Village, Bhubaneswar - 751 015 with a DD for Rs 375. Also apply to MAT.

5. G-Indomat—Test on November 30, 1997. Last date: October 30, 1997. Apply to ATS, 407 Vishal Tower District Centre, Janak Puri, New Delhi - 110 058 with a DD for Rs 350.

6. Master of Management—Eligibility: Bachelor's degree in engineering with first class or PG degree in science with first class. Written test: December 20, 1997. Last date: November 17, 1997. Apply to Admissions Coordinator, School of Management, IIT Bombay, Powai, Mumbai - 400 076 with a DD for Rs 700.

7. PG Diploma in Business Finance (2 years)—Eligibility: Graduation in any discipline. Written test: Scores of CAT, MAT, G-Indomat are valid. Last date: December 31, 1997. Apply to Indian Institute of Finance, 4 Community Centre, Ashok Vihar - II, Near Satyawati College Flyover, Delhi - 110 052 with a DD for Rs 500.

8. Post Graduate Programmes (2 years)—Eligibility: Graduates from any discipline. Written test: January 18, 1998. Last date: December 5, 1997. Apply to Admissions Coordinator, SP Jain Institute of Management and Research, Munshi Nagar, Dadabhai Road Andheri (W), Mumbai - 400 058 with a DD for Rs 650.

9. PG Diploma in Industrial Management—Eligibility: Bachelor's degree in engineering with first class. Last date: December 26, 1997. Apply to Asst Registrar (Academic), NITIE Vihar Lake, Mumbai - 400 087 with a DD for Rs 600.

10. PG Programme in Management (2 years)—Eligibility: Graduation with minimum 50% marks. Written test: CAT on December 14. Last date: December 31, 1997. Apply to Admissions Coordinator, TA Pai Management Institute, Manipal - 576 119, Karnataka with a DD for Rs 700. Also apply to CAT.

11. Management Trainees (125 posts)—Eligibility: Bachelor's degree in Engineering with minimum 65% marks. Last date: October 20, 1997. Apply in the prescribed format to Dy Director (Recruitment), Steel Authority of India Ltd, Ispat Bhavan, Lodi Road, New Delhi - 110 003 with a DD for Rs 150.

Medicine

Combined Medical Services Examination, 1998—Eligibility: A pass in the final of the MBBS examination and age below 30 years. Last date: October 27, 1997. Apply in the prescribed format to Secretary, Union Public Service Commission, Dholpur House, New Delhi - 110 011 with a DD for Rs 35. For details see Employment News dated September 13, 1997.

Descriptive Questions

Development and environment

Q. "All development is environmentally destructive." Give your views, two each, for and against the critical comments or statement.

Ans. Though the critical comments are quite sweeping in content and context, they cannot be brushed aside as some wayward wave of a cynical mind or an outburst of anger and angst of frustration or failure. What haphazard development has done to the environment is there for all to see and suffer in the form of uncontrolled pollution of air and water, scar-like mushrooming of slums, near break-down of civic amenities and a host of other problems that stare us in the face all the time. There is no denying the fact that development results in distortions like dislocation of population, disturbance in the fragile eco-system and, above all, an uninterrupted march of people from the rural to the newly developing or degrading urban areas.

With toxic wastes and industrial effluents polluting rivers and under-ground water, increasing noise levels, accelerating conflicts, crimes and ailments, anybody can fall a victim to the dubious distinctions of development. The way environmentalists and nature lovers are waging a relentless war against indiscriminate and unbridled emphasis on development without regard to environmental and ethical factors, the day is not far off when we shall be forced to become mere pawns in the hands of industrial sharks and mafia dons. We are more than aware of the fearful fact that as a result of unplanned development, the future of most cities looks uncertain. Proliferation of high-rise building in an unscrupulous manner, violating all laws, has further compounded the problem of sewerage disposal

and depletion of ground water.

The ill effects of development on environment and eco-system notwithstanding, it is an acknowledged fact too that no nation big or small can think of going a few centuries back by discarding the fruits of development. No one in his senses can deny the beneficial role that big dams, industrial development, green revolution, gigantic leaps in transport and communications, and in a numerous other walks of life, have played. Development with a human face" is the answer to many a problem that have erupted as a consequence of ill planned and hasty development, both on industrial as well as agricultural fronts. In panic or under pressure of some well-meaning environmentalists, we cannot throw away the baby along with the dirty water.

Without development, can man remain content with his existential situation? Since the dawn of history, development on the positive and creative side has been the hall-mark of human civilisation. When the momentum of development becomes fast for obvious reasons, the fall-out of such a development on all types of life is obvious and sometimes exceeds our expectations. We learn to live with such realities as they unfold themselves on the way to progress and prosperity.

Living conditions in villages

Q. "India lives in villages but the living conditions there are anything but liveable." Substantiate the statement with your views based on personal experience, knowledge and reading.

Ans. Despite ugly and unplanned urbanisation during the last five decades or so, a majority of our population still lives in villages. The observation of some well-

meaning persons that the living conditions in Indian villages are anything but liveable, seems to express more of their anguish than anger. There is no denying the fact that in the murky waters of dust and dirt, that our villages manifest, there are a few islands of comfortable dwellings owned and maintained by a lucky few. By and large our villages lack not only basic amenities, they remain highly vulnerable to natural calamities like drought or floods, man-made tragedies like factional feuds, mindless denudation of forests, and the like.

The most striking drawbacks that one comes across too often in our villages are the near total absence of social services like all weather roads, smokeless fuel, quality education and health-care. Standing on the threshold of the new millennium can anyone think of living an entire life in such environs as are bereft of proper sanitation, potable water and hygienic toilets? Watching women carrying pitchers of water, or bundles of wood on their heads, is not only a sad reflection on the living conditions in our villages but also a caustic commentary on all the so-called developmental-cum-welfare programmes that we have been undertaking all these years.

About the deplorable quality of education and health-care in villages, the less said the better. The way our schools are run and the type of education that is given there, can hardly enable the village students to compete with their counter-parts, not only from public schools, but also from other State-run schools in the urban areas. The poor villagers know to their cost that the best medical facilities are available only in the cities, but reaching there in critical situations is the moot question.

The face and fate of some villages may have changed over the years but a

majority of them still remain a neglected lot, only to be remembered at the time of elections or during the visit of some VIP there. Unless things are improved on all the essential fronts, on a war footing, poverty and population would continue to pound our villages.

Improving television programmes

Q. Suggest three effective measures to improve the quality of television programmes, both on the national and regional network. Say how the measures suggested by you would be effective.

Ans. Television is the most potent instrument that today's society has come to acquire. Its moving image is a more powerful carrier of messages than any other. The invasion from the skies, through various channels, affects people of all age groups in one way or the other. In India, both radio and television are under State control and much that is transmitted or broadcast is the reflection of State policies or the parameters within which they have to work. Facing the onslaught of programmes churned out by the private channels, it is time television programmes on the national and regional networks are reviewed, revised and refreshed from time to time, lest the Indian viewers are obliged to watch the private channels and get overwhelmed by their programmes made and transmitted purely for commercial purposes. That our television programmes need immediate improvement and innovation goes without saying. The following measures can go a long way in refurbishing the image of State-owned media.

Freedom to conceive and then give a concrete shape to programmes, is the first and foremost requirement that the operators or the television staff and personnel require without any further delay. Functional and managerial autonomy for the *Doordarshan*, coupled with accountability, is the crying need of the hour. No doubt, the structure of autonomy is only half a means to bring about improvements. The other half is the spirit in which the proposed autonomous organisation functions and the attitude of the people concerned—in government, Parliament and the Corporation.

There is no dearth of talent in India. The persons sitting at the helm of affairs should adopt a fresh approach to give a new look to the television programmes. Red-tapism and nepotism should have no place in the working of television network. Programmes not based on sermons and messages, carry conviction with the viewers. They look forward to watching such programmes as reflect the condition of times presented in an aesthetic and artistic manner, couched in a language with which they can associate themselves. Too many programmes based on film-culture, violence, vulgarity and other negative aspects need to be pruned and the services of media-experts in different areas of excellence should be made use of.

Another area that deserves immediate attention and improvement is the presentation of news on national and regional network. In a crisis-ridden situation, both at home and abroad, why the people tend to rely on news put-out by foreign channels or agencies, should make the policy makers sit up to consider ways and means to improve the image of *Doordarshan* on this front. Services of experienced journalists with impeccable credentials, news readers and other knowledgeable persons should be asked for.

Human beings and baldness

Q. If human beings all over the world become bald overnight. Give three possible consequences if such a situation arises.

Ans. Of all the other species, human beings are both unique and unparalleled in brain and brawn faculties. Since man is the manifestation of God and he carries on his shoulders the onus of responsibility of running this world, the same God has given him a pleasant personality, though carved in different shapes and figures. One of the most attractive and protective parts of his or her make-up is the cluster of hair on head. If by any mishap human beings become bald suddenly, the consequences of such a development can be anything but pleasant. Losing the hair on one's head, with no obvious cause or calamity may pose a host of problems, for which there

may be no remedy at all.

First of all, the natural protection that the hair provides to the head against vagaries of weather will no longer be available to human beings. In order to make up the loss of natural hair, artificial wigs will have to be manufactured on an unprecedented scale or, alternatively, caps, turbans and hats will have to be procured and worn to safeguard the poor, ugly and bald head.

Those engaged in the manufacture, distribution and sale of such products as hair oil, shampoos, hair pins, combs and the like, will have to call it a day and look for some other avenues to earn their livelihood. The immediate consequence of people becoming bald, shall also be felt by those running hair-cutting saloons, street barbers, beauty parlours, especially for women. Without the natural hair on head, modelling, beauty contests and similar other competitions, where the complete projection or exhibition of human personality is a 'must' will become a dull and drab affair.

With baldness more conspicuous and cruel to bear, it will adversely affect, physical aspects as well as mental make-up. As human beings, we have been used to finding ourselves gifted with hair and it will be beyond our powers and perceptions to see ourselves in mirrors completely bald and thus totally bereft of a very significant symbol of self-beauty and boasting.

TOPICAL ESSAYS

(For candidates appearing in I.A.S., P.C.S. & other higher grade Exams.)

by
A Panel of Experts

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Question Box

Q. What is a Catch-31 situation?

—*Akash Sethi, Chandigarh*

A. There is no such thing as a Catch-31 situation. What you mean is a Catch-22 situation, which was made famous by the novel "Catch-22" by Joseph Heller. In it, a bureaucratic procedure is described which protects the senior officers and the people who deal with the system are always losers. For example, you can't meet a general till he comes in office. But nobody knows when he will come and when he is in, you can't meet him anyway because he is busy in meetings. The novel described many such situations. Bureaucrats and government officers in India have perfected the art of the Catch-22 situation to hide from their responsibilities.

Q. I want to get a job in airlines in marketing or public relations. How can I prepare myself for it?

—*Panna Chowdhury, Hooghly (WB)*

A. If you are keen on a travel job, you should have a degree in tourism and this will help you get a job in airlines. Many institutes offer the Master in Tourism Administration (MTA) which you can do after your graduation. Another option would be to do a diploma course with institutes offering travel-related courses such as ticketing and public relations. Such institutes are helpful in getting jobs for their students as well. Check out the local papers for such courses and institutes, or seek guidance from someone already in the airline industry about which institute is helpful in getting jobs.

Q. I would like to do the masters of Finance and Control (MFC). What are the job opportunities available for doing this course?

—*Ritu Anand, Saharanpur (UP)*

A. If done on a regular basis from an

institute of repute, the MFC is a good degree to have and many job opportunities would be open to you in the field of Finance. But if you do it as a correspondence course or from an institute which is graded lower, your chances of getting a good job is doubtful. So please check out the institute before joining. On the other hand, if you are keen on a career in finance, you may be better off if you did the Chartered Accountancy or the MBA (Finance).

Q. I want to learn English speaking. How can I be fluent? Which book should I read?

—*Sangeeta Asawa, Udaipur (Rajasthan)*

A. To be good at English speaking, you must practice a lot. You should try to speak English at home and with your friends. The more you do this, the better you will be. Reading books will only help you acquire a good vocabulary but will not help you become fluent. You should also listen to English programmes on the radio and television to improve your diction and pronunciation. Books by the BBC and tapes in their "English by Radio" series will help you, provided you do the exercises as specified. Speaking English is not an impossible task and you will become much better with practice.

Q. What is copy-writing? How can I become a copy-writer?

—*Mousum Bhattacharyya, Hooghly (WB)*

A. The copy in an advertisement is all the written matter that appears in it. The text has to be concise and be able to catch the reader's attention. A copywriter is one who uses words to the maximum advantage to produce a memorable advertisement. Sometimes it may be just a phrase or a line that people begin to associate with the product. It is therefore said that copy-

writing is an art.

To become a copy-writer, you should have good command over the language and be good at playing with words. You should be precise without using too many words. A degree or a diploma from the communications department of a university would be helpful in getting a job as a copy-writer.

Q. What is the meaning "whip"?

—*Ashok Kumar Mishra, Jeyapore (Orissa)*

A. The "whip" is a figurative term used to describe the situation where a political party orders all its members to vote in a particular way on a motion. If any member votes differently, the party may take disciplinary action against him. The situation is like a person driving a horse cart. If the animal does not do what the driver wants him to do, it will get beaten by a whip. Members of the political party, thus, do not have any option but to obey the whip issued by the party chief.

Q. What is meant by disinvestment in public sector enterprises?

—*Vivek Srivastava, Ranchi (Bihar)*

A. The shares of public sector enterprises are held by the government. It is beginning to be felt that this is not a desirable situation, because of several reasons. One of them is that government funds could be put to better use than by being locked up in PSUs. Disinvestment means off-loading the shares to the public or other institutions so that government no longer remains the shareholder of public sector companies and can use the funds generated by selling the shares for developmental purposes.

Q. What is the difference between institutes that are approved and recognised by the AICTE. Which is

better?

—Amitava Mukerjee, Calcutta

A. The All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) is supposed to regulate technical education in the country. Institutes recognised by it supposedly fulfil certain criteria regarding facilities for technical education. In recent years, however, it appears that AICTE has granted approval to a number of sub-standard institutes. Thus the AICTE approval means nothing: many institutes without its approval provide quality education and have better reputation. You may also read "The mess in management education" published in our April 1997 issue.

Q. I am studying in class 12 and want to become a commercial pilot. But my parents insist that I complete my graduation before joining aviation. Please advise me what I should do.

—Simrat Pal Singh Gill, Moga (Punjab)

A. If you are serious about aviation, you will be wasting time doing graduation. You should join the training right after class 12. The eligibility in flying schools is class 12 with science subjects, and if you fulfil the basic criteria, you can apply to them. A graduation will not add to your qualification in any way. For details, see our feature "Careers in Aviation" published in COMPETITION MASTER, February 1997 issue.

Q. What is the right way to prepare for the MCA Entrance exam? Which is the best correspondence course for it?

—Amit Agarwal, Jhansi (MP)

A. The questions usually asked in MCA Entrance exams are Maths, reasoning and a little English. You should prepare for Maths from class 12 books. Do all the exercises so that you can answer the questions. Brush up your reasoning too from a good reasoning book. Correspondence courses are very helpful as they provide a large number of questions and test papers for practice. Choose a correspondence course which offers a large question bank. It would really be difficult to say which one is best.

Q. What is Visa power, as advertised on television? How can I get it?

—Mukul Bera, Howrah (WB)

A. "Visa Power" is a credit line that a person can have with the help of a credit card. It is referred to as "power" because one can purchase things without paying cash. To get it, you would have to apply to a bank that offers credit card services. You must fulfil certain criteria, such as minimum income, before you can be given a credit card with the "visa power".

Q. What are the job opportunities for a student doing French?

—Shweta Miglani, Chandigarh

A. The job opportunities for anyone with a knowledge of foreign language are great. You can work in an export house, multinational companies or free-lance as translator/interpreter. It really depends on how good you are.

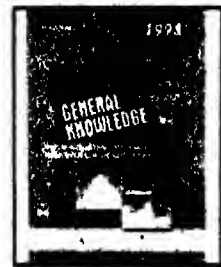


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CAREER

Studying Abroad

For many Indians, going abroad is an ambition if not an obsession. Everybody wants to go to the land of milk and honey and make a fortune. A visa to the USA is much coveted and the country attracts students from all fields. With countries like Australia and Canada too beckoning students through large advertisements published in the Indian press and career seminars in various cities, people have found viable alternatives in their quest for a foreign degree.

Earlier, many science and engineering students went abroad but today the profile is changing. A much sought after course is the MBA and students are opting for business studies right after school. Courses in hospitality and hotel management, commercial pilot training and in the arts stream are also much sought after. High technology areas like artificial intelligence and telecommunications do not have specialised courses offered by universities here and the only option for a person wanting to study in these fields would be to go abroad. Coupled with plenty of job opportunities in those countries and the possibility of making a fortune there, it is no wonder that foreign shores are the ultimate dream of many young people.

Another reason that youngsters go abroad is because of the very stiff competition in India to get into a top graded institute. Whether it is the top engineering or medical colleges or management schools or even the IAS, years of slog-ging may turn out to be a waste. Lack of transparency in the Indian educational system makes the labour of students so uncertain that many bright people just leave and opt for a more expensive education which will put them on par with the best people in the country. The system of reservations has also encouraged

an exodus because many meritorious students feel discriminated against in their own country.

One may talk about the brain-drain but little has been done to control it. That is why many foreign universities have been looking at the country for students who are highly intelligent and hard-working. Of course, to apply one must have a good financial standing, otherwise it would be difficult to pay for the education and staying expenses. Later, one may take up a part-time job but initially, one must have enough money to last out an year at least.

Selecting a University

Once you have the list of universities, a daunting task would be to select one most suitable for you. Since one has to pay an application fee while sending the form, one cannot make unlimited applications. So it is wise to target the most suitable universities.

In the case of technical courses, the choice would be easy, as one would just look for places where one could get the particular course. You can also look for courses depending on your age: if you are an undergraduate, look for universities which have graduate courses. Ensure that the university you are going to is accredited by the Council of Post-Secondary Accreditation (COPA). This will be helpful if you wish to change your school in mid-term. A ranking of the universities is also available based on the number of students applying, to those admitted. A higher figure would show which universities are sought after.

The British Council and the Embassy of Australia are very helpful in the matter of answering queries. Foreign universities are also quick in replying to queries so

one can have all doubts cleared, unlike the grossly mismanaged Indian universities.

How to Apply

The process of applying to foreign universities must start at least one year in advance. Application forms are to be filled, tests taken and admission ensured. Then, visas must be ensured without which the entire process would come to naught. Please note that there may be different procedures to follow for different countries.

For the USA, the first step would be to get a list of universities and writing to them for information and application forms. Some useful directories for this purpose are: *Directory of Graduate Programs* and *Peterson's Guide to Graduate Programs*. These directories are available in the offices of the United States Educational Foundation of India (USEFI) but even if you do not have access to that, look for a list of universities which are often published in books. You must write to them along with a **Pre-Application Form**, which should contain the following information:

1. Course Applying for:
2. Name:
3. Address:
4. Date of Birth:
5. Citizenship:
6. Academic Record:
7. Work Experience:
8. Tests Taken: (TOEFL/GMAT)
9. Financial Requirements.

After receiving your Pre-Application Form, the universities will send you their detailed application forms. It is advisable to select 6-7 universities, fill in their forms very carefully and send them. Simultaneously, take the TOEFL, and other tests (see box for details). Your scores will be

sent to the universities directly as well as to you so that you can assess your chances.

If the requirements match, you will receive admission offers which you can then evaluate. Apply next for a visa and this is a crucial stage because the rejection rates are very high. The whole process will take 12 to 18 months so it is advisable to start early if you wish to go abroad.

Cost: It must be remembered that applying to a foreign university is an expensive proposition. Taking tests would cost you around Rs 6,000. The GRE/GMAT scores are sent free to four universities and two other universities at an expense of \$ 13. Remember to get recommendation letters from teachers or employers to send along with the application. Write a good Statement of Purpose describing your career goals, academic record and why you wish to study abroad.

The average application fee per university is between \$ 20 to \$ 80. Taking an average application fee to be around \$ 50, if one applies to four or five universities, the cost will come to about Rs 15,000. The total fee in an American university is about US\$ 15,000 to \$ 17,000 per year. One must have an economic standing to meet one's expenses for one year. Otherwise, getting a visa would be difficult. It is useful to remember that an offer of admission does not guarantee a visa.

Some students look for scholarships to be able to meet their study cost, at least partially. Working on a part-time basis is also another option. While getting a scholarship is becoming increasingly difficult, some teaching assistantships are often available. A student can study and teach at the same time and also meet his expenses. However, while applying for a visa, one must be able to show sizable assets in one's name so that one can meet the cost on one's own should any help not materialise. In any case, scholarships are declining over the years. In the UK and Australia specifically, very few grants may be available.

A student may also have to return after finishing the studies. In Australia, a scholar visa is valid only as long as the course. After that, the student usually has to return to his country. So an offer of admis-

sion may not necessarily mean that a person can settle permanently in a foreign land.

Studying in Canada

Canada has emerged as another pre-

ferred country for education. It has almost 90,000 international students and ranks fourth in numbers from all over the world. The cost of the education is subsidised by the Canadian government and the annual fee varies from Canadian dollars 4,500 per year at the University of Manitoba to

Tests you need to take

Students wanting to go abroad will be required to take the TOEFL, GRE, GMAT and the SAT-I tests depending on their objectives.

The TOEFL is a Test of English as a Foreign Language and has to be taken by all Indian students who want to go abroad. It checks proficiency in written English and comprehension. A score of 550 to 600 from a total of 677 must be aimed at. The test is conducted four times in a year but one should not delay taking it beyond October. The Test of Spoken English, or TSE, is administered with the TOEFL, in October and March. It checks the proficiency of a student in spoken English. A score of 45-55 out of 60 is considered good. The test is required for those who plan to teach or do a PhD. Another test of English Proficiency is the Business English Certificate (BEC), which is conducted by the University of Cambridge. Details of this can be obtained from the British Council offices in India.

The Graduate Record Examination, the GRE, is required for admission to post-graduate programmes in technical areas. It is also conducted four times a year. There are six sections in the test, consisting of Maths, Verbal, Analytical and Logical Reasoning. A minimum score of 1500 out of 2400 is required for most American universities. Details of the GRE can be obtained from the USEFI offices in India.

If you are aiming for a management degree in the US, the Graduate Management Admission Test, GMAT, would be essential. It consists of Maths, Comprehension, Sentence Correction, Data Sufficiency and Reasoning. Since 1994, GMAT has two 30-minute essays as well. It also has an experimental section which is used for research purposes and may not be counted at all, but this is not known and it is not advisable to leave any section. Each section has to be done in the allotted time and you cannot go back and forth in the paper. The GMAT is also conducted four times a year. A score of 600 to 650 out of 800 is considered good by most universities.

The Scholastic Aptitude Test, the SAT, is required for undergraduate studies by US universities. It tests Comprehension, Maths and Verbal Ability.

Educational qualifications obtained in India may cause a problem, as the CBSE or the AISCE exams are not accepted universally. In UK and Canada, the GCE 'A' level examinations are accepted, while in Australia one may have to do a one-year preparatory course. A universally accepted qualification is the International Baccalaureate Examination, the IB. This is a two-year programme which is recognised internationally.

Most tests are conducted by Educational Testing Services (ETS) and scores are sent directly to the universities that you have opted for. Some useful addresses are:

1. IPED, 119/25A, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Allahabad - 211 001.
2. USFI, 12 Hailey Road, New Delhi - 110 001.
3. The British Council, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi - 110 001.
4. International Baccalaureate Office, University of London, Institute of Education, 18, Wabtern Square, London WC1H 0NS, UK.

15,000 at Bishop's University. In most universities in Canada, the fee is about 7,000 to 9,000 Canadian dollars. The Canadian Education Centre in New Delhi provides guidance and counselling. Once you have decided which course you want to do, approach the Centre and select the University of your choice. It will assess the merit of the student and the financial viability and advise whether one can apply or not.

Almost 90 per cent of the students going to Canada want to study MBA and another 5 per cent are medical students and the rest opt different courses from the wide variety that the country offers. Canada also offers a flexible plan, where a student may take a break and earn some money and return to finish it later.

Canadian universities require proficiency in English and the TOEFL scores are valid. For management courses, take the GMAT exam. You may write to each university separately with your request. For universities in the Ontario region, write to: Ontario Universities Application Centre, PO Box 1328, Guelph, Ontario, N1H7P1, Canada.

As Canada is a Commonwealth country, there may be a possibility of obtaining a Commonwealth scholarship. For this purpose, you may write to: External Scholarships Division, Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

Apart from the Canadian Education Centre, a number of consultants operate in India. Information and guidance can be obtained from them as well. Universities in the country are looking at India in a big way and this means more opportunities for those who want to go abroad.

Studying in Australia

Another country which is actively encouraging students from this country is Australia. The country has participated in a number of industrial fairs and is actively disseminating about opportunities available. The Australian government has also supported a number of education exhibitions in many cities of India. A large number of Indian students have made their

way to that country and it is estimated that Australian universities have 4-5% Indian students.

The advantage of studying in Australia is that education is comparatively cheaper than in the USA. The tuition fee and accommodation costs work out to be Australian dollars 15,000 per annum. Vocational courses are offered by Technical and Further Education (TAFE) in Queensland and similar institutes. Regular degrees are awarded by university departments. While financial aid is not available, Australian laws allow students to work outside the campus and they may thus be able to bear some of the expenses.

Certain standard admission requirements must be followed while applying. Applicants must send the complete form specifying academic record, a personal statement indicating choice of an institution, proof of English proficiency and evidence of financial position. Unlike US universities, Australian universities do not get much funding from the government and students have to bear their own cost. Further, students must leave the country after completing their course.

For more information, write to: Australian International Education Foundation, Australian High Commission, 1/50G, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi - 110 021.

Prospects

What are the prospects of a person with a foreign degree? Who should apply to foreign universities? What are the prospects for those who get a foreign degree and return to India?

First, it must be remembered that the top institutes in India are considered as good or even better than many universities abroad. If one can get in any such institute, one can get quality education right at home at substantially less cost. The job prospects of graduates from the top institutes are very good, as is well known. The first option should therefore be to apply to good institutes in India.

Because of the stiff competition, some students may feel that getting into a premier institute is too difficult for them. For them, a degree from abroad may be a viable alternative, since there is no point getting into a donation-college in India, where the education is not only expensive but also sub-standard. A certain basic level of intelligence would be required, as one has to pass the tests mentioned above with reasonably high scores. If you have been consistently getting bad marks in India, the chances of getting admission abroad would reduce considerably. Further, if you do not work hard there, you will not be able to get your degree.

Some universities and institutes of other countries are well known. Persons with degrees from these institutes would be much sought after here as well. On the other hand, there may be some colleges or universities which may not be well known here. A person with a degree from such colleges would certainly be at a disadvantage with employers in India. Moreover, some multinational companies prefer people from Indian institutes because they are attuned to the local environment, traditions and customs. So a good and highly paying job to foreign-returned person is not necessarily certain.

Even while abroad, students should make efforts to retain their identity, if they wish to return to the country. On the other hand, it may be possible that one can go to another country and work there, even if it is not possible to stay in the country where the education was undertaken. Certain companies who want to expand operations in India, but have offices elsewhere, would be interested in hiring a global manager with Indian roots.

There are many hurdles in the path for going abroad, still it is not an impossible task. A large number of people have already earned their degrees or have gone abroad to do so. The secrets are: start early, have your objectives clear, try to get good scores in tests and get down to the job in full earnest. If you are keen and are willing to match your desire with serious effort, a foreign degree is a distinct possibility.

General Studies

Solved Questions on Expected Topics for the Civil Services (Main) 1997 Exam.

Q. 1. (a) How is the President of India elected? What are the qualifications for election as President? With what margin the eleventh President of India was recently elected?

(b) What are the qualifications for the office of Vice-President of India? How does the election take place? Whether a member of Legislature can become President or Vice-President of India?

Ans. 1. (a) The President of India is elected by an indirect election. The election is carried out by an electoral college in accordance with a system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote by a secret ballot. The electoral college consists of

(i) The elected members of both the Houses of Parliament, and

(ii) Elected members of Legislative Assemblies of the States (including the elected members of Legislative Assemblies of National Capital Territory of Delhi and Union Territory of Pondicherry

On the basis of the population and number of elected representatives of each State, the uniformity of representation is maintained. Parity is also maintained between the States as a whole and the Union. It is ensured that the electoral college to the election of the President shall be equal to the people of the country as a whole. Hence the President becomes representative of all the people, reflecting the true spirit of federalism, giving due recognition to the status of the States. The value of each MP's vote is calculated by the following formula.

$$\frac{\text{Total Votes of all the MLAs}}{\text{Total members of the Parliament (Lok Sabha + Rajya Sabha)}} = \text{Value of one MP's vote.}$$

The value of each MLA's vote, in turn, is calculated as under:

$$\frac{\text{State Population}}{1000 \times \text{No. of State MLAs}} = \text{Value of one MLA's vote.}$$

Qualification: For being qualified to the President's election, a person must:

- (i) be a citizen of India;
- (ii) have completed thirty five years of age;

(iii) be qualified as a member of the Lok Sabha, and
(iv) must not hold any office of profit under the government of India, or government of a State and any local or other authority, subject to the control of any of the said governments

But a sitting President, Vice-President, Governor of a State or any Minister with the Union or State is not barred from seeking election to the office of President

Margin in Recent Election: Mr K.R. Narayanan was elected as eleventh President of Indian Union on July 17, 1997. He polled highest ever percentage of votes in all presidential elections so far by securing 91.4 per cent of votes. Mr Narayanan got a support of 4231 out of the effective strength of 4833 in the electoral college. The total value of votes in his favour worked

out to be 9,56,290. His rival candidate, Mr T.N. Sheshan, received 240 votes, only 4.8 per cent of the total votes polled.

Ans. 1. (b) As in case of the President, in order to qualify for the office of Vice-President, a person must be:

- (i) a citizen of India;
- (ii) over 35 years of age;

and

(iii) must not hold an office of profit except the office of Vice-President, Governor of a State or Minister for the Union or a State
(iv) must be qualified for election as a member of Rajya Sabha.

The election of the Vice-President is indirect and in accordance with the system of proportional representation, by means of a single transferable vote. The Vice-President is elected by an electoral college consisting of both the Houses of the Parliament. It differs from the electoral college for the election of President, in as much as it does not include the State Legislative Assemblies.

There is no bar on a member of the Parliament or State Legislative Assemblies being elected President or Vice-President. He shall be deemed to have vacated his seat in the House of Legislature to which he belongs, on the date he assumes his Office as President or Vice-President.

Q. 2. (a) "Launch of INSAT-2D in June 1987 has proved the supremacy of Indian Scientists in the field of its space

This feature has been specially prepared to help the aspiring candidates of Civil Services (Mains) examination have an idea of type of questions that are asked in the General Studies paper and the way these questions are to be answered. While in previous issues we had given selected questions from previous examinations, this issue incorporates topics which our experts feel might be asked in this examination.

programme." In the light of above statement, discuss various features and uses of this new satellite.

(b) After the Launch of INSAT-2D, what are the future plans of ISRO in the field of space programme?

Ans. 2. (a) On June 4, 1997, Indian space scientists added yet another feather to their cap with the successful launch of INSAT-2D. By doing so, India inched forward to attaining self-sufficiency in telecommunication services. The indigenous second generation satellite was successfully launched by the European Rocket Ariane, from Kourou in French Guiana. Carrying 23 transponders to provide television and telecommunication services together with INSAT satellites already in orbit, this satellite, alongwith INSAT-2E to be launched in 1998, would provide enough transponders for lease to private and government agencies in the coming years.

The following are some of the uses of INSAT-2D:

(i) The Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) transponder on the satellite will enable the Department of Telecommunications to offer mobile phone services over the Indian sub-continent. The MSS facility will pick up radio signals from the ground and transmit them back. This would enable anyone with a brief-case sized terminal to make or receive voice calls and transmit fax or data from anywhere in India

(ii) As in the case of INSAT-2C, the Broadcast Satellite Service (BSS) transponder would be useful for television agencies to transmit the images and sound to production centres from the remotest corners of the country. It would pick up signals sent by portable dish antenna and transmit it to production centres.

(iii) The hand-held system developed by the Centre of Telematics, alongwith a US company COMSAT, would also find use as a navigational aid in ships, trains and vehicles.

(iv) The six extended C-Band transponders on board INSAT-2D provide wider coverage from South East Asia to the West Asia for *Doordarshan* Programmes. A few extended C-Band terminals will support the VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminals) for providing communication support to the enterprises under the "remote area business message network". The major users would be NTPC, GAIL, NPC, IIT, ONGC and the NSE.

(v) Also functioning in the C-Band are 87 VSATs for remote rural area communication with another 41 terminals in various stages of implementation. Another 350 terminals are expected to be commissioned through INSAT-2D by 1997 end.

(vi) 3 KV band transponders on board satellite would provide exclusive coverage to Indian metro-cities for *Doordarshan*. These 3 transponders, alongwith 3 on band INSAT-2C, will give better efficiency to metro channel. In addition, there are 12 transponders which can be used for transmitting television signals over the Indian sub-continent, enhancing the *Doordarshan* coverage.

Ans. 2 (b) With the successful launch of INSAT-2D in June, 1997 the ISRO has crossed yet another milestone, which would open new doors of communication to the common man. ISRO is now poised to consolidate the gains already made.

First on its plans was the first operational remote sensing

satellite from the Indian soil which was launched in last week of September 1997. Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-1D) was put into orbit by the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from Sriharikota. With the track record of building 1000-kg remote sensing (IRS) Satellites and 2500 kg multipurpose (INSAT) class satellites and rockets, the ISRO is all set to begin the next phase of consolidation of its space programme.

The future plans include launching of two more advanced INSAT satellites for remote sensing and communication, and building commensurate launch capacity. All these, except INSAT-2E, would be launched from India, bringing an end to the dependence for launch on other countries. INSAT-2E is expected to be launched from Kourou in 1997-98, which would be last of the second generation series of satellites. The first of the future remote sensing satellites, IRS-P4-Oceansat, is slated to be launched in 1989-99, while the IRS-P5-Cartosat would be launched in 1999-2000.

ISRO has ambitious plans for launch of third generation INSAT-3 series. At the same time, the work has also began on the G-SAT series of satellite to be launched by developmental flights of Geosynchronous Satellites Launch Vehicles (GSLVs). Digital audio-visual broadcasting is to be taken up through these satellites. This facility would facilitate low cost messaging, tele-medicine, wide-band services and long distance education. Personal mobile satellite communication system and navigation system would also be introduced by the ISRO. ISRO would also lease out 11 transponders of INSAT-2E for broadcasting services in the Asia-Pacific region to Intelsat, in a deal worth \$ 10 billion per year for a period of 10 years.

Q. 3. What is G-8? How is it different from G-7? Where did the latest meet of G-8 countries take place? What issues were discussed? Do you think that discussions and declarations at G-8 summit would have any material impact on the world affairs?

Ans. 3. G-8 stands for Group of eight most industrialised nations of the world. Earlier, it was called the Group of Seven (G-7) nations and included USA, Canada, Britain, Italy, France, Germany and Japan. Induction of Russia in this elite group has necessitated the change in the name to G-8. The last meeting of the G-8 nations took place in June 1997 at Denver, USA.

Several issues were discussed at the Summit. The attention was on the three hot spots in the world, i.e. West Asia, Cambodia and Bosnia. The Eighth leaders issued a warning of the sorts to all the fighting factions in Balkans to fulfil their promises of peace or face a cut in the aid. The leaders declined to relent on Bosnia when they further announced that "the international community would maintain a long-term engagement" in Bosnia.

Russian induction into the group was reciprocated by the Russian President Boris Yeltsin by promising the Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto that Russia would stop targetting nuclear missiles at Japan. Earlier, the Russian President had announced at Paris in May, 1997, to de-target missiles aimed at NATO countries. It is pertinent to add that Russia and Japan have not

signed the formal treaty of ending World War-II because of their dispute over the Kuril Islands which were captured by Russia during the war. The Summit also observed admission of Russia into the Paris Club, a group of wealthy nations that negotiates debt terms with the developing countries. This would help Russia in getting debt repayment from the countries like Cuba, Iran and Iraq, among others

The Summit took place just a few days before the take-over of Hong Kong by China. It called upon China to guarantee free elections in Hong Kong as also to ensure Hong Kong's stability and prosperity and preserve its fundamental freedoms. It was hoped that democratic elections to the new legislature of Hong Kong would be held soon. In addition, the Summit leaders expressed concern over health and pension needs of the aging community and a host of infectious diseases that are likely to grip the developing world during the next century.

The modern problem of cloning, arising out of genetic engineering, also came up for discussion and human cloning in particular was discussed. The leaders urged appropriate domestic legislation and close international cooperation to prevent human cloning, while countries explored ethical and scientific implications in greater depth. This is in line with the policy followed by the USA at present. Environmental issue of controlling the carbon dioxide emissions generated some heated debate. While the European nations wanted a firm target for reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, the USA wanted to avoid a firm target. This was because the USA has the highest per capita levels of carbon dioxide in the world. German Chancellor Helmut Kohl also brought up a proposal for a world environmental organisation as a new UN agency to oversee international environmental agreements.

The discussions and declarations were generally dubbed as mere rhetorics. Rather than sticking to their original economic issues, the G-8 nations have started to discuss the areas which are of exclusive importance to the developing nations. In other words, these nations have assumed self-claimed responsibility of all the problems of the world, assuming the role of an extra-legitimate agency to express its views on almost all types of happenings in the world. Because of their wealth and economic power, they, at times, ensure implementation of their declarations by virtually forcing the developing world to accept the terms imposed by G-8. During the recent years the focus has been towards Russia, CIS nations and Eastern Europe. There has been hardly anything for Asian and African countries where poverty galores.

Q. 4. (a) What do you understand by Prasar Bharati? What have been the causes of delay in its implementation? What would be the implication of the Act?

(b) What are the main provisions of the new Broadcasting Bill? Would it result in reforming the media evils of our country? Critically examine.

Ans. 4 (a) Prasar Bharati is the name given to the Broadcasting Corporation of India to be set up under the Prasar Bharati

Act. The Act was passed by the Parliament in the year 1990, but was not implemented. Aimed at emancipating the Radio and Doordarshan from the control of the government, the said Act has now been notified to come into effect with effect from September 15, 1997.

Prasar Bharati Act has been delayed considerably and there are many reasons of this delay. Firstly, lack of political will on part of the government to implement the Act. Secondly, no government wanted to lose control over the two most important tools for propaganda. Thirdly, an argument was put forward that India was not prepared to have free TV and Radio till the advent of Cable T.V. Now, with Satellite & Cable TV sweeping the entire nation, autonomy has to be given to Doordarshan and AIR to enable them to survive.

Prasar Bharati would be the name of the new Broadcasting Corporation which would run the broadcasters of Radio and Doordarshan, ensuring their autonomy. Once in force, the Act would not only pass the control of Radio and Doordarshan to the corporation, but would pass on all their assets and property too. The terms and conditions for such transfer would be laid down by the government. The corporation would, however, continue to receive annual grants from the government, in the form of equity, grant-in-aid or loan. Committing to ensure right to information to all the Indians, the Act assigns the Corporation the duty to organise and conduct public broadcasting services to inform, educate and entertain the public and to ensure a balanced growth and development of both the media.

The Prasar Bharati Nigam (Corporation) shall be controlled by a Board comprising 15 members. In addition to one part-time Chairman, a full-time Chief Executive Officer, six part-time Members, a member each from the Department of Personnel and Finance, Director Generals of DD and AIR, a member would also be appointed by the government. There would also be two elected members of the trade unions. Remaining members would be appointed by a selection committee designated for this purpose. It, however, remains to be seen as to what extent the objectives of the proposed corporation would actually be fulfilled and whether the new Corporation would be able to ensure true autonomy to the two important media. Government, through its members, grants and equity, would, however, continue to exercise its control over the Prasar Bharati.

Ans. 4 (b) A lot was expected from the new Broadcasting Bill, introduced in the Parliament in March 1997. The proposed legislation, however, aimed only to achieve the limited purpose of regulating private broadcasters and players and to ensure that they do not create a monopoly in media holdings. The Bill proposes to set up Broadcasting Authority of India, having only two official members, including the Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. It strives at imposing cross-media restrictions to avoid monopoly holdings. A person holding 20 per cent equity in one media cannot get an operating licence for another media. The satellite and terrestrial broadcasters would have to obtain a licence from the Authority and will have to abide by the codes of broadcasting to be set by

it The Bill has now been referred to a select committee of the Parliament

The said Bill seems to have missed the target in as much as it is not as comprehensive as it ought to be. The main aim appears to be the regulation of the private players, on the one hand and regulation of the monopolies on the other. It is not known as to what terms of reference would be set up for the Broadcasting Authority of India and how much free-hand would it be given. It may turn out to be a mouth piece of the government. Moreover the proposed cross media restrictions may turn out to be counter productive and in turn impede the rapid growth of media in India. While the trend in most of the matters is liberalisation the proposed regulations may be a retrograde step. The Bill appears to have been drafted only to obey the directions of the Supreme Court of India in its judgement delivered in February, 1995 in famous *Hero Cup, 1993* case (*Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Vs the Cricket Association of Bengal and others*). Basic spirit of this judgement is that access to the airwaves is a fundamental right under Article 19(1) of the Constitution but the proposed legislation appears to be imposing restrictions on this very right itself.

At the same time by announcing introduction of *Prasar Bharati* with effect from 15th September 1997, the government has kept its options open. The *Prasar Bharati Act* also proposes setting up of a autonomous corporation to run the AIR and Doordarshan. While the government decision to relinquish its control over the AIR and DD is being viewed as a landmark one, there is a general impression that the Broadcasting Bill may not see the light of the day.

Q 5 "50 years of Indian Independence have not been able to remove the miseries of Indian masses" Critically Examine.

Ans 5 Euphoria of golden jubilee celebrations of Indian independence appears to be evaporating. The 50 years of independence and almost 47 years of planned growth have not been able to remove most of the miseries from the face of the country. There are many problems which have not been adequately addressed to. Burgeoning population is one of the major problems. While the resources and production levels are limited, ever increasing population has disturbed all the calculations. Even today the population growth rate is around two per cent per annum. Birth rate despite major achievements, is still quite high and the death rate is fast declining. As a result, India may soon relegate China to the position of second most populous country in the world. The fruits of growth are being eaten away by the teeming millions year after year.

Percentage of population living below poverty line is yet another area of failure of the planning process. At the time of independence, the percentage of population living below the poverty line was about 50 per cent, and as per some recent estimates, the percentage is still around 42. In other words, the spending of millions of crores of rupees in the poverty alleviation programmes, since independence, has not been able to make any

significant dent on the rural poverty in the country. It is not clear whether the ongoing programmes would have any impact on the problem of poverty.

Despite certain improvements in the social sector, the overall scenario in this sector still continues to be grim. The country has so far not been able to provide safe potable water to the entire population. Health and family welfare facilities need a lot more to be desired. Availability of a doctor, vis-a-vis the population, is still one of the lowest in the world.

But, it would be wrong to presume that no development has taken place in the country. If we look around, the economic development levels achieved become obvious. Self-sufficiency in foodgrain production has been one of the areas of significant achievements. Recently concluded Eighth Plan has registered a growth rate of around 6.5 per cent, while an ambitious target of 7 per cent growth of the GDP has been envisaged for the Ninth Five-Year Plan. Savings and investment are on the rise and the industrial growth rates have achieved new landmarks. Even in the social sector, the life expectancy at birth has risen and almost doubled from a level of 32 years in 1950-51. Death rate, birth rate and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) have all declined appreciably. Literacy rate also improved markedly, from 16 per cent in 1950-51 to 52 per cent in 1991. From almost negligible level of production of electric power India has achieved remarkable levels of production.

While it cannot be denied that rapid economic development has taken place during the past 50 years, it is also a matter of common knowledge that most of the development has taken place in urban areas and industrial towns. The rural areas, particularly in the interiors, have not seen much of the development. The dichotomy of development has, thus, left the rural areas much behind the urban settlements, resulting in poor conditions in these less privileged areas.

Q. 6. Describe the main features of the Annual Budget 1997-98. Why it has been described as a "Dream Budget"?

Ans. 6 Annual Budget for the current financial year has been described as one of the most outstanding ones in the recent years. While it aimed at higher tax collections by reducing rates of direct and indirect taxes, it also tried to extend concessions to almost all sections of the society. Main features of the Budget were

(a) Radical changes were introduced in the sphere of direct taxes. Standard deduction for the salary earners has been raised from Rs 15,000 per annum to Rs 20,000 for all categories of employees. In addition, rates of income tax were reduced significantly and the three existing slabs of 15 per cent, 30 per cent and 40 per cent were reduced to 10, 20 and 30 per cent, respectively, providing substantial tax relief to the salaried class.

(b) With a view to rope in more number of people in the tax net, a new scheme has been introduced under which certain categories of persons having certain facilities in the metropolitan cities are now compulsorily required to file income tax return. In yet another move, Estimated Income Scheme has been introduced to simplify the process of the assessment of the retailers.

with less than Rs 40 lakh sales turnover, who would now be assessed at the rate of 5 per cent. In other words, 5 per cent of the sales turnover would be treated to be the income of the assessee. Turn-over upto Rs 8 lakh has been exempted from payment of any tax.

(c) A Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme (VDIS) was introduced which after remaining open for 6 months, would close on 31.12.97. Disclosure under the VDIS would not be questioned with regard to source.

(d) Dividends received by the shareholders would not be subject to any income tax now. As a result double taxation existing in the corporate sector would come to an end. Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) would continue for 5 years with some changes.

(e) Excise and custom duties on many articles have been cut. Peak rate of custom duty has been reduced from 50 per cent to 40 per cent while the rationalising of excise duty rates towards mean rate of 18 per cent have been attempted.

(f) Excise duty structure for Small Scale Industries has been simplified and a flat rate of 3 per cent *ad valorem* on clearances between Rs 30 to 50 lakh and 5 per cent for clearances between Rs 50 to 100 lakh was proposed.

(g) Rate of Provident Fund (PF) contribution from both the employer and the employee is proposed to be raised from 8.33 per cent to 10 per cent and in case of scheduled industries from 10 to 12 per cent. This would benefit the labour class.

This year's budget has been described as the 'dream budget' by many. The main reason is that the budget has proposed concessions for almost all the sections of the society. Ranging from a labourer, to salaried class, to the businessmen, sops have been provided. Even the common man stands to gain by reduced rates of direct and indirect taxes as well as simplified procedures. Except for service tax on a few items and increased postal rates, the tax rates on almost all the fronts have been reduced.

Q. 7. What are the qualifications for appointment as a Judge in the Supreme Court of India? How is the independence of Supreme Court secured by the Constitution? What is the position of Supreme Court under the Indian Constitution?

Ans. 7. To qualify as Judge of the Supreme Court, one must be

(a) a citizen of India,

(b) either a distinguished jurist or a High Court judge for the last 5 years or advocate of a High Court for at least ten years.

No minimum age is prescribed for appointment as Judge of the Supreme Court. The appointment of Judges is done by the President of India. The President shall consult Council of Ministers as well as Chief Justice of India. The senior-most judge eligible to hold the office is now appointed as the Chief Justice as laid down by a nine-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court.

The Constitution of India lays down several ways in which the independence of the Supreme Court is sought to be secured. Some of the ways are as under:

(a) The appointment of the judges of the Supreme Court is

done by the President of India on the advice of the Council of Ministers. But, it is mandatory on part of the President to consult the Chief Justice thereby reducing the control and jurisdiction of the Executive.

(b) A Judge of the Supreme Court cannot be removed by the President except on a joint address by both the Houses of the Parliament on the grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

(c) The salary and allowances as well as the service conditions relating to leave and pension are determined by law made by the Parliament, but cannot be altered to their disadvantage, except under a Financial Emergency.

(d) The Constitution provides that the administrative expenses of the Supreme Court, including the salaries and allowances, etc., shall be charged to the Consolidated Fund of India.

(e) No discussion on the conduct of a Judge is allowed in the Parliament, except upon a motion for address to the President for removal of a Judge.

(f) The Constitution lays down that after retirement no Judge of the Supreme Court shall plead or act in any court or before any authority within the territory of India.

Position: Supreme Court of India is the apex Court of the country in civil, administrative and criminal matters. It is said that the jurisdiction, powers and authority of the Supreme Court of India are much wider in their nature and extent, than those exercised by any of the highest courts of any country. Supreme Court is the highest court of appeal, a federal court and a guardian of the Constitution and other laws of the land. Its directions in exercise of any jurisdiction under the Constitution is a binding upon all other courts within India. When compared to the American Supreme Court, Indian Supreme Court emerges stronger and superior. Due to various pronouncements, including the one on the Public Interest Litigation, the Supreme Court has emerged even stronger over the recent years.

Q. 8. Give details of Mountbatten Plan. What were the main features of Indian Independence Act? Why, in your opinion, the Britishers gave freedom to India in 1947?

Ans. 8. British government, on June 3, 1947, made a statement on India's impending freedom, which is popularly known as Mountbatten Plan. Mainly dealing with the partition of the country in general and that of Bengal and Punjab in particular, the plan was welcomed by many. The Provincial Legislature Assemblies of Bengal and Punjab were required to meet in two parts, one representing Muslim majority districts and the other the rest of the Province. Both the parts were to vote separately in favour of partition and in case either part decided in favour of partition, the division was to be made. Another part of Mountbatten Plan was that there would be a referendum in the NWFP (North West Frontier Province) and Sylhet District whether people wanted to join India or Pakistan. Representatives of Muslim majority districts voted in favour of partition and the referendum in the NWFP as well as the Sylhet went in favour of Pakistan.

Indian Independence Act of 1947 was introduced in the British Parliament on July 4, 1947 and was finally passed with Royal assent on July 18, 1947. Main features of Indian Independence Act were:

(a) The Act provided that from 15th August 1947 there would be two dominions to be known as India and Pakistan.

(b) The constituent assemblies of both the States would have unlimited power to frame and adopt any Constitution and repeal any Act of the British government

(c) Pakistan was to consist of the provinces of Sind, Baluchistan, East Bengal, NWFP and the district of Sylhet in Assam.

There were many reasons which contributed to Indian Independence on August 15, 1947. Some of the reasons were:

(a) The rise of Indian National Movement was so great that the Britishers realised by the first quarter of the century that sooner or later they had to leave India. Quit India Movement, formation of INA and leadership of leaders like Gandhi and Nehru made Indians aware of their political rights and liberties.

(b) Indian Armed Forces were also influenced by the nationalist ideas and the Britishers knew that in future it would be increasingly difficult for them to have faith in the loyalty of Indian Armed Forces towards them

(c) The myth of British invincibility was broken. The reverses suffered by the British Army in Hong Kong, Singapore and Burma convinced the Indians that the Britishers could be defeated. The British also knew this.

(d) Second World War had shattered British economy and it was difficult for them to continue the occupation of India. They wanted to consolidate and rebuild their own country's economy.

(e) Modern ideas of liberty had captured the imagination of the entire world. Colonialism was now a dirty word.

(f) There was a strong public opinion building up in England against the exploitation of poor masses by the British. This was also responsible for their leaving this country.

(g) Gandhi's mobilisation of the masses was yet another cause.

Q. 9. (a) The following table gives the number of employment exchanges, the number of applicants on live registers and the number of applicants for whom the employment has been secured by the employment exchanges in India:

Year	No. of Employment Exchanges	No of Applicants on the live registers of employment exchanges (in lakhs)	No. of applicants placed in employment by employment exchanges (in lakhs)
1956	143	7.58	1.90
1961	325	18.33	4.05
1966	396	26.22	5.07
1971	437	51.00	5.04
1976	517	97.84	4.97
1981	519	178.38	5.04

From the above data, what conclusions can one draw about the adequacy of the employment exchanges and the effectiveness of the employment exchange organisation?

(b) In a factory, the labour union asks for the increase in salaries because they claim that 50 per cent of the employees get less than Rs 800 per month. The management claims that there is no case for increased salaries because the average salary of the employees is Rs 1200 per month. Which view will you support and why?

Ans. 9. (a) The following conclusions can be drawn from the above data:

(i) The increase in the number of employment exchanges has been adequate and from 143 employment exchanges in 1956, the number rose to 519 in 1981. In other words, in about 25-year period, the increase in the number of employment exchanges was over three and a half times.

(ii) Number of applicants, on the other hand rose phenomenally from 7.58 lakh to 178.38 lakh, which is about twenty-four fold increase.

(iii) Number of applicants placed in employment by these exchanges has, however been slow. Though it increased from 1.90 lakh in 1956 to 5.07 lakh in 1966, yet after that year it has remained stagnant and actually decreased during the next three five-year periods upto 1981.

(iv) The employment provided has not been able to cope up with the number of applicants placed in employment. The gap between the two variables has been increasing right from the beginning, but particularly after 1966, the gap has been widening rapidly

(v) The growth in the number of employment exchanges has not been able to cope up with the rapid growth in the number of applicants on the live registers of the exchanges. For example in the five-year period from 1976 to 1981, the number of employment exchanges increased by 2 while the number of applicants rose rapidly from 97.84 lakh to 178.38 lakh.

Ans. 9. (b) In this case the demand of employee unions appear to be more reasonable. The claim of the employee union that their average salaries are less than Rs 800 is not disputed by the management, which means that it is a fact that 50 per cent of the employees get less than Rs 800 per month. The management's claim that the average wage is Rs 1200 is not tenable, as the employee union talks about the absolute salaries while the management talks in terms of averages. Moreover, average salary of Rs 1200 reveals that many employees get much more than Rs 1200 pm; but the fact remains that 50 per cent of the employees get less than Rs 800 as salary.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Cassini Mission

How do you fly to Saturn?

Modern rocketry has its limits. For instance, in order to go straight to Saturn, a spacecraft must be flung into deep space with a speed of about 10 kilometers per second! The Titan IV booster with a Centaur upper stage is quite capable of flinging the Cassini spacecraft away from Earth into space, but only with a speed of about 4 kilometers per second. How, then, can we get to Saturn? The answer lies in the use of gravity assist scheme. Basically, the idea is to use the gravity of other planets to do the dirty work of accelerating the spacecraft so that it can finally reach Saturn. During the planetary swingby there is an exchange of energy between the planet and spacecraft, enabling the spacecraft to increase its velocity (speed and direction) relative to the Sun.

Before the concept of gravity assists was proposed in the early 1960s, planetary spacecraft were realistically limited to visiting Venus, Mars, and Jupiter. The other planets simply could not be reached by reasonably sized spacecraft without taking decades to get there. Using gravity assists, missions to all the planets are possible. The only energy required is that needed to get to the first planet; all subsequent planets are more or less "free".

Straight talk about gravity

The force of gravity is what keeps us attached to the Earth. Isaac Newton discovered that the reason the Earth exerts gravitational force is because it has mass. Anything which has mass exerts gravitational force. The more massive the object, the greater the gravitational force it exerts.

Space travel is based on the idea that

the adage "what goes up must come down" is not always true. If we give an object (a spacecraft, for instance) a high enough speed, it goes into orbit around the Earth; faster still, and it leaves Earth orbit. The speed at which an object leaves Earth's orbit is called the escape speed.

When a spacecraft leaves Earth's orbit, it goes into its own orbit around the Sun. The transition is a gradual one, governed by the fact that the gravitational force exerted by an object (e.g. Earth) decreases as the distance from it increases. As the Sun is the most massive object in the solar system, when we get far enough away from Earth the Sun's gravitational force dominates by far. A spacecraft moving away from Earth behaves more and more like it is orbiting the Sun and less and less like it is orbiting the Earth. Eventually, it gets far enough away from the

Earth that the influence of Earth's gravity is practically unnoticeable.

The process is reversed during a flyby of a planet. Initially, the spacecraft is far from the planet, in orbit around the Sun. As it gets closer to the planet, the planet's gravitational force gets stronger, overpowering the Sun's influence in the vicinity of the planet. Since the spacecraft's speed is greater than escape speed, the spacecraft continues right on by the planet, instead of going into orbit around it.

However, the planet's gravity bends the spacecraft's trajectory as it flies by. This means the spacecraft leaves the flyby in a direction different from the one it came from, and when it leaves the planet behind for the void of deep space, its orbit around the Sun is no longer the same as it was before the flyby.

The closer the flyby and the more massive the planet, the more the trajectory is bent. Any increase or decrease in the spacecraft's speed results from an energy exchange between the planet and the spacecraft. That is, if the spacecraft speeds up in its orbit around the Sun, the planet must actually slow down, and vice versa. However, because the planet is so much more massive than the spacecraft, it only has to slow down a tiny bit (too small to notice or measure) to give the spacecraft a whopping acceleration.

Did you know...?

- The Cassini spacecraft is about the size and weight of an empty 30 passenger school bus. It weighs roughly 5650 kg (6 tons), over half of which is rocket fuel.
- Cassini will regularly use the Deep Space Network's largest antenna, which is 70 meters (230 feet) in diameter—nearly an entire football field wide.
- Cassini will collect and transmit about 2 trillion bits of science data, the equivalent of about 800 sets of the Encyclopedia Britannica!
- On a busy day at Saturn the spacecraft could transmit up to 4 gigabits (4,000,000,000 bits, or about a CD-ROM worth) of information to Earth. Add that up over several years at Saturn, and you can see just how much information we're getting per dollar!
- It will take a Titan IV launch vehicle with two solid rocket motor strap-ons, a centaur upper stage, and about 3000 kilograms (6600 pounds) of propellant to complete Cassini's mission at Saturn. Well over 99 per cent of Cassini's trip, however, will be an unpowered coast through space!
- Cassini will travel 3.2 billion kilometers (2 billion miles) to reach Saturn and another 1.7 billion kilometers (1.1 billion miles) while in orbit around Saturn.

Cassini's main trajectory: gravity assists galore!

Cassini's "primary" trajectory is designed to get a 5650 kilogram (or a small school bus!) spacecraft to Saturn in about six years and nine months. The Cassini spacecraft will initially be launched inward, not outward, and will be aimed toward Venus rather than Saturn. After examining literally thousands of different possible paths, the mission designers came up with an outstanding trajectory, consisting of two Venus flybys, a flyby of Earth and one of Jupiter. Only after these four "gravity assists" will the spacecraft finally be able to reach Saturn.

Six years may seem like a long time to get to Saturn, but remember that Saturn is ten times as far away from the Sun as the Earth is, about 1,430,000,000 kilometers—so Cassini's journey is enormous. From the spacecraft's point of view, the trip is equivalent to that of an ant that has to crawl around the Earth 60 times!

Fuel

Cassini will use three different types of fuel to get us where we want to go, as well as pointing a heavy spacecraft in the right direction. The first and most efficient, by far, is the gravity assists! The second, a "tangible" fuel, is the bipropellant used by Cassini's main engine for large propulsive maneuvers. Even with the enormous help from gravity assists, Cassini still needs to perform a lot of propulsive maneuvers to keep on going in the right direction at the right speed.

There are four large propulsive maneuvers that we can't use gravity assistance for: the Deep Space Maneuver between the two Venus encounters during Cruise, to target correctly for the quick Venus2—Earth "double gravity assist" (without which we couldn't get to Venus at the right time, and therefore couldn't get to Saturn as planned); the Saturn Orbit Insertion maneuver which slows us down enough to go into orbit around Saturn (without which the spacecraft would just fly right by and keep going out into deep space); the Periapsis Raise Ma-

neuver several months after Saturn arrival which raises the closest approach distance to Saturn (called the periapsis) outside of Saturn's inner rings; and the Orbiter Deflection Maneuver, performed after the probe is released to set up the correct geometry for the probe mission.

Bipropellant is composed of two ingredients, mono-methyl-hydrazine and nitrogen tetroxide. Let's just say they work very well together, ignite easily when brought together, are easy to store, and don't freeze at the temperatures we're expecting aboard Cassini.

The third type of fuel is hydrazine, which is used by the Reaction Control Thrusters for very small propulsive maneuvers and for turning the spacecraft to point at different things (rotational maneuvers).

Communications

The Cassini spacecraft communicates with Earth using a 4-meter fixed High Gain Antenna (HGA) and two wide beam Low Gain Antennas (LGAs), both of which communicate with the Earth in the X frequency band. The HGA transmits data to Earth (downlink) at a frequency of about 8.4 gigahertz (8,400,000,000 cycles per second). For comparison, the FM band on your radio is centered around 100 megahertz (or 100,000,000 cycles per second). The Earth sends commands to the spacecraft at a frequency of about 7.2 gigahertz (the uplink). The two frequencies are different so that the uplink doesn't interfere with the downlink (like two radio programs trying to broadcast on the same station).

Data rates for transmitting data to Earth vary from about 40 bits per second—roughly equivalent to the rate of information conveyed in a normal spoken conversation—to about 170,000 bits per second—equivalent to one-eighth the rate of information played from a music CD. The low rates are used primarily during cruise, where there's not much science being conducted and we can't point the HGA directly to Earth for temperature reasons. Once the spacecraft reaches Saturn the lowest downlink data rate is

roughly 14,000 bits per second.

The HGA is so-called because signal strength is gained by focusing the radio energy into a highly concentrated narrow beam. In fact, most of the power is concentrated within one-half of one degree (about one seven hundredth of a circle).

The LGAs, on the other hand, have a much wider beam pattern, which allows the orbiter to communicate with Earth when circumstances prevent us from pointing the HGA to Earth directly. There are two LGAs, one pointing along the same direction as the HGA and one on the same side of the spacecraft as the Huygens probe, at right angles to the first LGA.

One factor that complicates matters somewhat is "light time". Since electromagnetic radiation travels at a finite speed—about 300,000 kilometers (186,000 miles) per second—and Saturn is so far away, it takes a while for the spacecraft data to get to the ground and *vice versa*. After arrival at Saturn, the "light time" from Earth to Saturn is about 70 to 90 minutes. This means the spacecraft doesn't receive commands until 70-90 minutes after they're sent, with the same delay on the ground when receiving telemetry from the spacecraft. Imagine trying to talk to someone on the phone when you have to wait an hour and a half for them to say hello!

Recording Data

Cassini uses a state-of-the-art Solid State Recorder (SSR) as the primary memory storage and retrieval device. The spacecraft is equipped with two SSRs, each with a usable capacity of up to 2,000,000,000 bits (zeros or ones). All data recorded to and played back from the SSR is controlled by the Command and Data Subsystem (CDS), which often acts as a policeman to make sure all the data is preserved until there's a chance to send it to Earth. Among many other tasks, the CDS has the job of taking the data recorded from each instrument (such as an image of the rings or a measurement of Saturn's magnetic field) and placing it in a secure place on the SSR so that the instruments can examine something else.

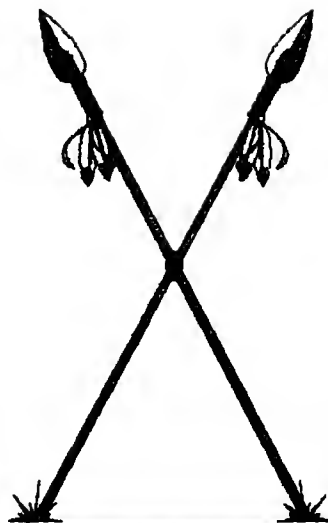
THE CONFLICTS AND TENSIONS OF NORTH-EAST

India's North-Eastern region has never been out of the news totally. Armed conflicts, problems of refugees from neighbouring countries, the demand for separate States, fighting among tribal groups and guerrilla warfare with the Indian army has claimed thousands of lives. On this year's independence day, militants had succeeded in disrupting life, with bomb blasts in trains and the killing of several people. In Itanagar, insurgent groups had declared a bandh. It was as if the Indian State had ceased to have control over these areas. Earlier during the year, a social activist had been killed in Assam. Bomb blasts and ambush of army patrol vehicles are common.

While Kashmir captures the national imagination, the North-East is often referred to as a "remote area". But the war in the region is probably more severe than anywhere else. Neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan are, reportedly, helping the militant organisations in these States, while China is waiting in the wings to exploit the situation. In the absence of any development activities, the only industry that attracts people is that of extortion. A majority of the population pays protection money to gangster outfits.

The country faces a great challenge to its integrity from its north-eastern region. Unfortunately, the challenge is largely ignored by our leaders. The response of the Assam government, for instance, has been rather superficial and it has blamed private companies for allegedly financing ULFA, forgetting that no private company would willingly wage war against the State. For years, the government has failed to provide security and companies had to face several threats and kidnappings.

Our cover feature looks at the North-East imbroglio. Years of neglect have nurtured prejudices and separatist movements. What can be done? Is the North-East region doomed to become another Kashmir? Will it continue to tax the security forces without a political solution? It is time that some concrete steps are taken to get this insulated region on its feet again. For the policy makers, it represents the need to show some initiative, if it is not to become another battleground for neighbouring countries.



The story of the North-East is thus one of tragic neglect. It is just as well that the situation is getting out of control. Years of neglect have resulted in problems getting bigger and bigger, to the extent that in some areas, the writ of the Indian State has ceased to exist.

India's North-Eastern region consists of the seven States of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam. To most Indians, and those in the government, these States are too far away to seem important. Many people have just a fuzzy idea about the area. So cut-off are these States that they are referred to as "remote areas", with even the UPSC allowing extra time for applications to reach from there. In this age of communication and supersonic travel, when everything is getting inter-connected and distances are disappearing, having some areas which are "remote" is hardly justified and shows a callous attitude of the policy makers.

The story of the North-East is, thus, one of tragic neglect. It is just as well that the situation is getting out of control. Years of neglect have resulted in problems getting bigger and bigger, to the extent that in some areas the writ of the Indian State has ceased to exist. Terrorist groups now run parallel governments, making the elected governments seem like puppets.

Insurgency is not the only problem here. The jigsaw puzzle includes tensions between different tribal groups and influx of population from across the border. Residents of the area feel their way of life is threatened and a campaign against outsiders has claimed thousands of lives over the years. Each problem is big and seems insurmountable.

The problems are compounded by the fact that the area touches the borders of Myanmar, Bangladesh and China and some groups may be recipients of direct and indirect support from across the borders. The solution

is not to ignore problems and wish them away, as the Indian government has been doing for too long, but in doing something about them. The North-Eastern States represent one of the biggest failures of the country since independence. They may also represent the kind of anarchy that the rest of the country is heading for, with the State losing its legitimacy and armed gangs taking over. With the police and law enforcing agencies stuck in the quagmire of corruption, and leaders busy with their petty squabbles, is it any surprise that extortionists and criminals begin taking over the task of government?

TEA GARDENS AND EXTORTION

Though extortion has been a way of life in Assam, it would not have come into focus but for a daylight ambush on the motorcade of Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mohanta in June. The government found a scapegoat and pointed fingers at a private company, Tata Tea. It was accused of financing the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA). Questions were raised as to why a company should pay for the travel and maternity bills of a person who was the cultural secretary of the ULFA. Officials of the company also had, reportedly, travelled with members of the ULFA and seemed to be working with them.

The government conveniently forgot that the responsibility to provide security lay squarely with it. Over the years, that responsibility has been ignored. The tea industry has been the target of huge extortions and some 12 executives have been killed since 1990. The companies have been forced to pay for the

safety of their managers.

Accusing them of financing the terrorist outfits was merely shifting blame for the inaction of the government. What the government chose to overlook was that its own departments of sales tax, Inspectorate of Motor Vehicles and the forest department have been paying protection money to militant organisations. An efficient system of "tax collection" exists in the State. Most of the financial packages given by the Central government find their way into the pockets of officials and from there to the terrorist organisations by way of "taxes".

This is what social worker Sanjoy Ghose discovered when he started to organise voluntary village labour so that they could work for their own development. Suddenly, the bureaucrat-contractor-terrorist nexus felt threatened, because they had been siphoning off funds meant for development of the State. The ULFA was a beneficiary of this nexus and the only way that the money could be safeguarded was by killing Ghose. Never mind that the social worker was actually trying to help the very people for which ULFA claims to be fighting for.

The response of the Central government was predictable. It appointed a new Governor, Lt Gen S.K. Sinha. The Chief Minister explored the option of appointing supercop K.P.S. Gill and stamp out terrorism. The leaders did not realise that without a political solution, getting hard could further alienate the people.

MILITANT GROUPS

It is no wonder that militant groups are steadily increasing in the region. They even have social

legitimacy. The National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) has two splinter groups, each with its own area of influence.

The United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) was started in April, 1979 and has its origins in the All Assam Students Union (AASU). From 1979 to 1985, it fought to expel outsiders from the State and gradually became a terrorist organisation. The ULFA was able to grow because the politicians either were too soft on it or had sympathies with it. It was banned in 1990. The army launched Operation Bajrang in which many hideouts were smashed and many ULFA men captured. They were released when Hiteswar Saikia became the Chief Minister, undoing the achievement of the army. Today, ULFA is a well organised operation, having sophisticated weapons and communication equipment, as also a well organised system of extortion.

Another angle to the problem is the aspirations of the Bodos. They want a separate State for themselves and a militant organisation, the Bodo Security Force, has been fighting for it. An accord was signed in 1993 but was not implemented fully.

A similar problem exists in Tripura, where the local population feels threatened by the influx of Bengalis and Bangladeshis. There are at least 21 militant outfits and most of them, allegedly, have the political patronage of the ruling CPI-M party.

The nexus between militant organisations and the politicians encourages insurgency and extortion and the army may well be fighting a redundant battle. The nexus also encourages corruption and diversion of funds meant for development of the region.

INDIA'S NORTH-EAST



The North-East region of India is bound by Tibet, Bhutan and China in the north, Myanmar in the east and Bangladesh on the west. It is linked to India by a small strip of land 56 km across and remains characteristically different from the rest of the country. Although the region is endowed with abundant natural resources and is rich in forests, minerals and hydro-power, the economy is still primitive. There is virtually no development and as a consequence, no job opportunities. The seven States are impoverished, with little infrastructure, transport, power and industry have remained undeveloped and no State has a viable economy. They are dependent on the Centre for help.

India's North-East consists of seven States, called "Seven Sisters" :

1. **Arunachal Pradesh**, literally meaning "land of the rising sun". It was formerly North East Frontier Agency and became a Union Territory in 1972 and a State in 1987. Covering 83,578 sq. km., it has its capital *Itanagar*.

The northern boundary is the McMahon line and has been in dispute between India and China. After independence in 1947, China laid claims to the area, saying that it did not accept the McMahon line. Its troops captured an outpost in 1959 to abandon it later, but in 1962 struck with force. Later, they withdrew approximately to the McMahon line.

2. **Assam**, with an area of 78,523 sq. km. included the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Meghalaya until their reorganisation in 1972. During World War II, Assam became one of the main supply routes to Burma and some decisive battles were fought in the State. In 1970, some tribal people demanded a separate State and in 1972 Meghalaya was created. The capital of Assam is *Guwahati*.

3. **Meghalaya**, meaning Abode of the Clouds, became a State in 1972. It is an area of great scenic beauty. It has an area of 22,489 sq. km with *Shillong* as its capital.

4. **Mizoram**, formerly Mizo Hill District of Assam, it became a Union Territory after 1972 and a State in 1987. With an area of 21,087 sq. km, it is bounded by Myanmar, Bangladesh and Tripura in the west. A large percentage of Mizo are literate and Christian. It has three main adventure units: *Aizawl*, *Lungleh* and *Chhimitupin*. Capital is *Aizawl*.

5. **Nagaland**, is one of the smallest Indian States, with an area of 16,579 sq. km. It adjoins Myanmar and its capital is *Kohima*. After 1947, a small armed force was organised which claimed that Nagaland was a sovereign State. After negotiations with the Naga People's Convention, an agreement was signed between Naga leaders and India, placing it under Central administration. The unrest continued and conflicts continued. Nagaland entered the Indian Union in 1963 and the next year, an elected government took office. The State, however, never saw peace. A large number of Naga dissidents were found to be trained in China. Extremists continued their activities and peace has only recently returned to the State.

6. **Tripura**, another small State with an area of 10,491 sq. km, has its capital city, *Agartala*. Its last ruling Maharaja, *Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya*, settled that his State should accede to the Indian Union. Tripura was a Union Territory upto 1956 and became a State on January 21, 1972.

7. **Manipur**, with an area of 22,356 sq. km and capital *Imphal*, became a State in 1972. The majority of the population is *Meitei* and are largely *Hindus*. *Meitei* women conduct most of the trade and enjoy high social status.

COVER FEATURE

ETHNIC CONFLICTS

Terrorism and extortion is only one aspect of life in the North-East. There is the problem of immigrants from across the border as well. Tribals living in the area feel that they are being marginalised as people from other States, or "foreigners", are taking over local resources. This has created an additional area of conflict which frequently results in blood baths. There is a plethora of outfits running around the States claiming to be a "liberation army" of one group or the other, killing villagers at frequent intervals.

The largest massacre was the killing of 1,800 people in Nellie and other villages, 70 km from Guwahati, in 1983. The victims were suspected to be illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. The T.D. Tewary Commission submitted its report in 1984, which held the All Assam Students Union (AASU) and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) responsible but nothing has been done. The anti-foreigners campaign had resulted in intense communal feelings, resulting in many killings even after Nellie. The problem still persists and the AGP has threatened to launch another agitation if the Election Commission revises electoral rolls.

In Manipur, the Kuki-Naga conflict threatens to grow very big. Recently, villages were burnt and

more than 10,000 people were rendered homeless in less than a month. The Kukis have a conflict with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) because they want a separate homeland of their own while the Nagas want to include parts of Manipur in the Greater Nagaland that they are fighting for. Sub-tribes like the Paites, who have chosen to remain neutral, attract the wrath of the groups because neutrality is taken as a sign of support. The Kukis have attacked and killed Paites in several incidents.

In Assam, the Bodos have been trying to rid of other communities so that they have their Bodoland Autonomous Council. First, they targeted Muslims and then the Bengali Hindus. The latter organised themselves into the Bengali Tiger Force (BTF) and revenged attacks against the Bengalis by killing six Bodos in August this year. Tensions are high in the area and it will be a long time before the tangle can be resolved.

Insurgency in Tripura has increased with tensions between the Bengalis and the tribals. Though the Bengalis constitute 70 per cent of the population, there is a 80 per cent job reservation for tribals. There is pressure on land as well, with the infiltration of Bangladeshis.

In Tripura, the problem of Chakma refugees has persisted over 11 long years and soured relations between India and Bangladesh. In the past, neither General Ershad nor Begum Khaleda Zia had made efforts to resolve the problems of the Chakmas, who had been fighting for autonomy in the Chittagong Hill Tracts for several years. The refugees had fled to India

following a crackdown by Bangladesh forces on suspected tribal insurgents. An agreement signed with the country enabled the return of the Chakmas from April, 1997.

NEW NATIONS AND STATES

The Kukis, Nagas and Bodos are not the only ones who want separate homelands. Most people in the region talk of colonisation by India. Every State has an armed group dreaming about a separate State, whether within the Indian Constitution or outside it.

In Manipur, the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) and its armed wing, the Manipur People's Army (MPA) are fighting to throw off what they perceive as colonial rule by India. They feel that India has done little for the State, taking away raw materials but doing little in return. The Indian army is like an "army of occupation". There are few opportunities or jobs available and the young are disillusioned. That is why the ranks of the MPA keep swelling. The youth are, reportedly, trained in a militants' defence academy in Myanmar territory.

There is a similar story in Nagaland. The young can find no jobs or self-employment and the only option they have is to join the NSCN. As in the other States, extortion is rampant and the only career option. The underground militants have social legitimacy and, reportedly, receive training in Bangladesh and Myanmar. The NSCN is a member of the Unrepresented Peoples' Organisation (UNPO) and also has supporters abroad who coordinate the accommodation and training in Thailand. The organisation is

sustained through extortion.

The Bodos, for their part, are fighting for a homeland of their own too. The Bodoland Liberation Tiger Force (BLTF) is fighting for a separate State within the Indian Constitution but the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) wants a sovereign country. The former wants a district council on the bank of the Brahmaputra which would include all Bodos and exclude everybody else. The Bodos feel that they have been subjugated and suppressed for too long.

FUTURE OF NORTH-EAST

The situation in the North-East is grim but there are some signs that things may improve. There are fresh hopes in the region, with the government finally taking some initiative. Both Mr Deve Gowda and Mr Gujral have visited the North-East in a span of a few months. Years of militancy may have turned public opinion against it. There are signs that the people yearn for peace.

This was evident in the killing of Sanjoy Ghose by ULFA. The local population felt angered and perhaps, for the first time, defied the ULFA. Many Assamese ignored calls from militants to boycott this year's independence day. There was even a protest march to register their indignation about Ghose's killing. Together with the Tata Tea controversy, the Ghose killing may have made the people realise that militant organisations may claim to have lofty ideals but are actually a bunch of petty criminals. The money taken from tea companies, for instance, was not used for the larger cause or to help the people, but to obtain expensive medical



assistance for the office bearers of the organisation. In this, the ULFA becomes no better than the corrupt government officials, who use money meant for the people for their own personal benefit.

The government can use the changing tide of public opinion for fresh initiatives to get the people of the North-Eastern States into the mainstream. A deeper understanding of the people will help solve the problem to a great extent. It is heartening to see some positive steps having been taken in that direction.

A package of Rs 6,100 crore has been announced by the Central government. The Shukla Commission has already commented upon infrastructural lags and basic minimum services and the latest package may enhance that to some extent. The Naga Students Federation has asked Gujral for infrastructural development rather than financial packages. The population has come to realise that economic and technological progress is what is required for long term stability of the region.

There is also a feeling that militancy may be wearing thin. With normalisation of relations with Bangladesh, the Indian government can press for closing the training centres for militants in that country. Together with this, a programme of economic development would help the local population. Ethnic affiliations gain importance in the absence of economic standing and once the region is brought into the mainstream even ethnic conflicts may reduce to some extent. Also, once economic development starts, local youth will no longer be attracted to a life of insurgency.

In Nagaland, the government signed a cease-fire with a faction of the NSCN in Geneva and then

extended it to other groups. With the latest cease-fire, there are hopes that a solution to the Naga problem could be reached.

One of the urgent things that the government can do is to ease the long-standing travel restrictions to the region. Most areas remain cut-off because of a 123-year old rule under which people must take special permission to go to many parts of the region. The rule had been made to protect the ethnic identity of the tribes but has only resulted in insulating the region from the rest of the country. Tourism and opening up of the economy will help commerce and industry. It will also help local people, as the area is rich in tea, timber, oil and natural gas.

Different States require different approaches. In September, 1997, the Centre had hosted tripartite talks between the Bodo groups and the Assam government to implement the half implemented Bodo accord, signed in 1993. As signals reach out that the government is concerned about the region, violence is also expected to decrease. There is also an urgent need to keep the dialogue open and send a message to the people that violence is not necessary and that they too matter in the Indian republic.

Militancy is a well-entrenched and prosperous operation. The ULFA has been receiving more than Rs 10 crore per annum from the tea companies as extortion money. Even as the government takes initiative to solve the tangle, there may be sinister plots to protect the militant movement, both from within and outside the country.

The Indian government faces a tough challenge in the North-East. There have been several false starts in the past. In 1956,

for instance, the Nagaland problem was on the verge of being solved. Then Jawaharlal Nehru died and no further initiatives were taken. We are in a similar situation today: Gujral may be willing to solve the problem but his tenure does not seem to be certain. Will history pause long enough for one of the longest standing problem of the Indian Union to be resolved this time?



LESSONS FOR THE COUNTRY

In many ways, the North-East represents where the country may be heading. If urgent steps are not taken to control many of the evils afflicting society.

In the North-East, the link between corruption and insurgency is very evident. The Centre has frequently announced financial packages but much of the grants have been diverted to line pockets of officials and politicians. Audit agencies have highlighted how crores of rupees have been diverted. That is one reason that fruits of development have not reached the people. No wonder the average youth is disillusioned and the only way to keep the economy moving is to share the loot, and militant groups make sure of that.

The nexus between corrupt leaders and militants have eroded the authority and legitimacy of the government. In some States, the government exists only in name. For example, the Tripura Chief Minister Dasaratha Deb, reportedly, attended Assembly for just 7 out of 80 days in four years. The situation is better in other States but the authority of elected State governments is second to the writ of the militants.

The situation in the North-East shows to what extent corruption can eat into the vitality of the State. As there is a debate in the rest of the country about a corruption and a nexus between criminals and politicians, the North-East may reflect the situation which the rest of the country may be heading towards, if not checked. Already, criminal gangs rule many parts of India, the film industry is in fear of extortionists and kidnappings have increased. A life of crime is fast becoming a career option for unemployed or under-employed youth. Insurgency is only a step away from this kind of a situation.

The North-East has lived through years of neglect. The rest of India is only now feeling the neglect arising from political short-sightedness and opportunistic alliances. The process of criminalisation of society has started. Will the country have an anarchy as in the North-East? Or will the leaders understand what they are doing and mend their ways?

PERSONALITY & YOU

Improve Your Voice

DO you have a voice which repels others? Does it creak or croak? Does it sound like a piece of chalk scratching a blackboard? If so, you should sit up and take notice. Your voice, your own musical instrument, needs improvement.

Do not despair. You may not be able to produce the melody of a nightingale but you can remove the blemishes and brighten your personality.

Men spend tons of money on clothes and even cosmetics to make themselves more attractive. Yet they neglect almost entirely their most powerful means of making an impression. Most do nothing to improve their voice.

If your voice is unpleasant, you not only create problems for your self, you may be revealing weakness in your personality that you will be better off keeping hidden.

Whether you are attending an important meeting, or just gossiping, conversing in a relaxed mood, your listener is responding to the sound of your voice. And whether he is realising it or not, he is judging you by the effect you have on his eardrums.

Good Voice

WHAT then is a good voice? Simply, it is a voice that permits others to understand what is being said without having to put up with disturbing vocal

noises. If a man wears a perfectly matching dress but wears it too loud, everyone will notice it. The same applies to your voice—any distraction ruins the total effect.

It is necessary to avoid affectations to have a good speaking voice. Do not imitate speech mannerisms of your favourite stars. These are sort of identifying marks on them. On you, these are artificial.

Regional accents, however, are not affectations. There is usually nothing wrong with a local voice mannerism. These can be pleasant and interesting, as long as they do not interfere with the listening ability to understand. The regional differences are not really important. The sound of your voice 'is' important.

Physically, everyone can have a pleasant voice within his or her capacity. If you have normal organs of speech, you can learn to speak pleasantly.

Familiarise yourself first with the way you sound to others. Test yourself. You can do it at home, alone. Close your eyes and say something like "My eyes are sparkling". If you try really you will be pleasantly surprised at how clearly you can 'hear' your own voice.

If possible, make a recording of your voice and play it for a couple of times. You are in for a surprise. You are sure to exclaim: "Oh, is it really me speaking?"

Using objectivity, you will be able to

know whether or not you possess a pleasant voice. If you have it, thank your stars and be happy. If it is not, you can launch on an improvement programme. All you need is a teaspoon, two wads of cotton, a facial tissue, and a newspaper.

When you refer to someone's conversation as a lot of hot air, you probably have in mind the burden of the remarks rather than the quality of the voice. Yet it is true that voice is simply air-resonated, amplified, shifted in pitch, and finally shaped into the sounds we call words. An extraordinary number of organs and muscles are involved.

Speech starts on an exhalation (you can't speak intelligibly while inhaling) and the exhalation is the work of your diaphragm and the great surrounding chest and upper abdominal muscles—your vital or dynamic centre, or "girdle of breath support."

To produce speech, these muscles start a current of air up your wind-pipe from your lungs. The air passes through your voice box, along your throat, into your nasal passages and sinuses, back to your mouth, and, finally, out into the open as spoken words.

The first way-station is your larynx, which sits on the top of your windpipe the way a factory whistle is sometimes seen sitting on top of a steamstack. Your larynx is the hard bump in your throat,

more noticeable in men than women, that joggles when you swallow. It is called the Adam's apple because a piece of the apple which Adam ate in the Garden of Eden is supposed to have stuck there!

Voice Box

JUST behind your Adam's apple is your voice box, which is hung with two curtainlike membranes called vocal cords. As the current glides or rushes through, the cords vibrate, causing a sympathetic vibration in the upward moving air. The vibration is what registers on your ear as sound. The faster your vocal cords vibrate, the higher is the pitch of your voice.

The first step toward proper breathing is proper posture. The fact that proper posture makes you look ten years younger and twice as handsome is a side benefit. If round shoulders and a drooping midriff helped you speak better, it would be ho-ho for round shoulders and a drooping midriff. It happens, though, that an upright carriage, naturally held, puts the muscles of your vital centre in the best possible position to provide the steady exhalation of air that you need to support an attractive voice.

So, from now on, you are to hold your head a little higher and your back, a little straighter. That is executive posture. It will help your soul as well as your voice. "Grief", Shakespeare said, "is proud, and makes his owner stoop." If you refuse to stoop, you will be one up on grief.

Your voice can tell the best or the worst of lies about you. It can say "vigorous" when you are tired. It can say "young" when you are over seventy. But watch out if it says "fatigued" when you are rested; "weak" when you are strong; "frustrated" when you are fulfilled; "old" when you are still young!

Don't let your voice give away your age. Franklin D. Roosevelt managed to sound young and vibrant even in his last speeches, when he was already mortally ill. Winston Churchill's voice remained the same long after his shoulders had rounded and his step become a shuffle.

Don't give someone else voice fatigue. If you recharge your own voice instead, he may very well pick up your vitality. Voices are surprisingly contagious.

Sagging Voice

YOU know what sagging stockings do to a woman's image. A sagging voice is worse.

Does your work require you to talk continuously on the telephone? Must you sometimes keep your listeners' attention despite competing noises?

How many talk through their noses? The census does not ask that question!

To correct both nasality and stridency, and to arrive at the velvet smoothness of chest resonance, you must work toward relieving your general physical tension. Specifically, learn to relax your jaw and tongue and open your throat and mouth so that the sound can exit that way, instead of being shunted into the passageway that makes it come out the nose.

If I ask you to let your head sag on your neck, you will have no trouble doing it. But can you relax your tongue? Go over to the mirror and check: can you let it go limp, completely without tension, resting sleepily in the nest of the floor of the mouth?

Most people cannot. It will probably hump up, it will furrow, it will pull back, it will stretch sideways. Talk to it as if to an untrained puppy. Say, "Down, tongue, down! Relax! At ease!"

You must learn to breathe properly through the mouth. You breathe through the mouth when talking. Insert a small wad of moist cotton at the opening of each nostril. Smile as openly as you can. Keep your teeth apart, and take a breath through your mouth.

Hold a facial tissue before your mouth and blow out gently against the tissue. Soon you will learn to control your breath. Read the newspaper aloud with the cotton still in your nose.

Learn to use your tongue and lips properly. A teaspoon is used to help show you how your speech-producing muscles work. Place the side edge of the teaspoon

handle against the upper teeth at the gum line. Hold the spoon with both hands as though it were a harmonica. Read aloud. With the spoon in the same position, choose a three-syllable word, spell it aloud and then say the word. Now put the spoon against the centre of the lower teeth, repeat the exercise.

Exercises

PLACE the back of the spoon handle gently under the rim of the upper teeth. Keep the lower teeth away from the spoon. Smile naturally, with a relaxed feeling and make mild conversation.

Insert the tip and edges of the spoon handle between the upper and lower teeth at the side of your mouth. Close your teeth on the handle. You will get a very relaxed feeling in your jaw. Read aloud.

All these exercises should be done with a relaxed smile to loosen the lips. Devote at least five minutes to each. Read or speak aloud with the spoon in position and then repeat what you have spoken without the spoon.

These exercises will more than improve your voice. They will give you proper appreciation of just how words are formed. With this knowledge in mind, you will automatically pay more attention to your speech. You will speak better and more pleasantly.

Don't let your dynamic center collapse, no matter how tired you are. The energy you put under your voice will put energy into you. Don't yield to the contagion of loud voices at social gatherings, discotheques, and sports arenas. Instead, use exaggerated breath support.

Don't release your frustrations and anger by shouting or screaming. You will only tear your throat apart. Get and hold attention by quiet emphasis and projection, as much as was required to blow up your make-believe balloon.

Don't clear your throat under the illusion that you are clearing your vocal cords. Pant the phlegm off.

Keep your voice vital—and it will keep you vital!



Missing Merry Spirits!

ALCOHOL has been called the "fiery liquid" The Russians call it "green snakes" The famous writer Seneca has called its effect 'voluntary madness' "Drink has drowned more than the sea", goes yet another adage

Gladstone says, "Intoxicating drinks have produced evils more deadly and more continuous than all those caused to mankind by the great historic scourges of war, famine and pestilence combined"

Nothing surprising if the Americans, known for their high spirits, introduced prohibition It is a different matter that they failed to enforce it

Morari Desai was a staunch prohibitionist He too tried to banish it and failed in his home State Haryana is now experimenting in it Let's watch!

The rest of the country has not gone dry but *prohibition* is everywhere! If you think that we are talking like a dim-wit, read on

For centuries this poor country has suffered from the crushing burden of moral and

spiritual prohibition Austerity, abstinence and renunciation amount to an impressive pile of prohibitory edicts wounding the psyche of the common man if he ever dared to *enjoy* life Merry spirits are frowned upon

The emergency proclaimed by Mrs Indira Gandhi was considered the darkest period of our history because it was a period of severe *prohibition* Mass media were crippled

It is different matter that the Press chose 'to crawl while it was only asked to bend'

The constitutional freedom of the ordinary citizen was extra-ordinarily prohibited *Prohibition* haunted the citizen like a ghost in every sphere of life The nightmare has long ended but the dawn has not come yet Prohibition is here, there, every-

where

You begin your day with prohibition facing you on all fronts Your journey to the bathroom begins with prohibition as the water does not run in the flush

The blade manufacturer uses his own brand of prohibition do not wipe Rinse and dry The bristly growth on your chin and cheek is a subject of unsuspected prohibition

The boss in the house commands "Do not put too much sugar in tea Do not eat too much You do not have teeth in stomach!" Is this not prohibition?

She prohibits you to use tea cups as ash trays threatening to serve tea in ash trays! You stomach culinary as well as curtain lecturers

At home, a place where you should be free to indulge

your whims and fancies, you cannot play the TV full blast nor can you go on a messing expedition as the lady of the house prohibits such messing in her "museum"

You step out of your door and see how prohibition stalks you You cannot keep yourself on the right side of the road though there is nothing to prevent you from keeping yourself on the right side of the authorities!

In hospitals, the prohibition sign reads Do not use lift Do not spit Do not make a noise

You cannot smoke in the bus unless the conductor himself does You cannot steal forty winks if you are sitting near the driver.

Not can you drive a scooter without a helmet which presupposes that every driver has a *head*

VOCABULARY

Improve Your Word Power

1. **arraign:** (a) charge (b) verify (c) excuse (d) expose.
—The police have *arraigned* the suspect for murder and kept him in police custody for further interrogation.
2. **bludgeon:** (a) forget (b) hit (c) propose (d) oppose.
—The fearless journalist was *bludgeoned* to death by the hired killers.
3. **commemorate:** (a) ignore (b) forgive (c) celebrate (d) calculate.
—A special session of Parliament was held on the mid-night of August 14-15 to *commemorate* the fiftieth anniversary of India's Independence.
4. **disseminate:** (a) destroy (b) preserve (c) build (d) spread.
—The visual media have become a powerful tool to *disseminate* new ideas and information across the world.
5. **escalate:** (a) pacify (b) justify (c) mourn (d) worsen.
—In a fluid situation, even a minor incident is good enough to *escalate* into a full-fledged armed conflict.
6. **fusty:** (a) smart (b) defensive (c) old-fashioned (d) modern.
7. **gingerly:** (a) cautious (b) lazy (c) comfortable (d) annoyed.
8. **hype:** (a) publicity (misleading) (b) reception (cold) (c) arrival (timely) (d) development (dangerous).
9. **irate:** (a) pleased (b) angry (c) sad (d) lonely.
10. **jumble:** (a) separate (b) mix-up (c) rejoice (d) deceive.
11. **kaleidoscope:** (a) dull (b) bookish (c) colourful (d) childish.
12. **loquacious:** (a) silent (b) strange (c) silly (d) talkative.
13. **machinate:** (a) conspire (b) perspire (c) expire (d) manage.
14. **notch:** (a) fail (b) achieve (c) publish (d) undo.
15. **odyssey:** (a) conversation (b) meditation (c) journey (d) agreement.
16. **paradigm:** (a) gift (b) pattern (c) negligence (d) denial.
17. **recalcitrant:** (a) simple (b) confused (c) disobedient (d) orderly.
18. **snowball:** (a) grow (in size) (b) shrink (c) loosen (d) fasten.
19. **trepidation:** (a) excitement (b) expression (c) resentment (d) fear.
20. **vignette:** (a) speech (b) illustration (c) dream (d) reality.

ANSWERS

1. **arraign:** (a) charge, accuse, indict.
—The police have *arraigned* the suspect for murder and kept him in police custody for further interrogation.
2. **bludgeon:** (b) hit (repeatedly).
—The fearless journalist was *bludgeoned* to death by the hired killers.
3. **commemorate:** (c) celebrate, observe.
—A special session of Parliament was held on the mid-night of August 14-15 to *commemorate* the fiftieth anniversary of India's Independence.
4. **disseminate:** (d) spread (widely), distribute.
—The visual media have become a powerful tool to *disseminate* new ideas and information across the world.
5. **escalate:** (d) intensify, worsen.
—In a fluid situation, even a minor incident is good enough to *escalate* into a full-fledged armed conflict.

6. **fusty:** (c) old-fashioned.
—He is a *fusty* old professor who has learnt much from books but does not know much about modern ideas.
7. **gingerly:** (a) cautious, careful.
—He opened the rat's cage in a *gingerly* manner and left the scene at once.
8. **hype:** (a) publicity (misleading).
—The public were not fooled by all the *hype* the press gave the event.
9. **irate:** (b) angry.
—Police had to open fire when an *irate* mob tried to obstruct rail/road traffic.
10. **jumble:** (b) mix-up.
—Toys, books, shoes and clothes were *jumbled* (up) on the floor.
11. **kaleidoscope:** (c) colourful, varying.
—The latest book on India is a melody of colour—a *kaleidoscope* of all the hues of this sub-continent.
12. **loquacious:** (d) talkative.
—Unlike men who are generally secretive, women are *loquacious* by nature or habit.
13. **machinate:** (a) plot, conspire.
—The traitor knows how to *machinate* against the ruler and help the enemy.
14. **notch:** (b) achieve.
—With this performance, she has *notched* up her third championship title.
15. **odyssey:** (c) journey, quest.
—Unmindful of the physical hardships, the ancient saints and seers undertook spiritual *odyssey* as a matter of choice.
16. **paradigm:** (b) pattern, model.
—With the change of times, *paradigms* of political or democratic practices have changed for our politicians.
17. **recalcitrant:** (c) disobedient, stubborn.
—A *recalcitrant* child is a problem both for his teachers and parents.
18. **snowball:** (a) grow, accelerate (in size or importance).
—With the passage of time, the malady of corruption has *snowballed* into an epidemic with dangerous ramifications.
19. **trepidation:** (d) worry, fear.
—After the floods, the threat of an epidemic caused great alarm and *trepidation* among the affected people.
20. **vignette:** (b) illustration, description.
—A visit to a museum opens before us the charming *vignettes* of Indian art and culture through the ages.

Questions on Social and Economic Problems

Q. What are the factors responsible for the development of regionalism in India?

Ans. Simply stated, regionalism is said to be love of a particular region in preference to the country. More comprehensively, regionalism is the consciousness of the people inhabiting a particular part of the country, of their separate existence.

In India, regionalism has become a form of 'politics of pressure' and also a bargaining technique. Some of the factors responsible for the development of regionalism in India are

1. Geographical Factors: India has a vast area and there are several diversities in its geographical configuration. Geographical conditions lead to some of the regions being isolated from others because of which there is a lack of emotional binding between people of different regions. Foreign rulers who came to India also took advantage of this situation and encouraged separatist tendency among the people living in the far-off regions.

2. Historical Factors: India is a land of diversities and this has also contributed to the development of regionalism in India. Foreign rulers made the people aware of these diversities and divided the people on the basis of caste, religion, colour, race etc. After independence, political leaders sharpened this division.

3. Religious Factors: India is a multi-religion State where people of different religions live. When people following a particular religion happen to gather in a particular region of the country, their political aspirations can be easily aroused.

4. Linguistic Factors: Language has also played a special role in awakening regionalism. India is a multi-linguistic State and the politics of several Indian States

moves around the question of language. Moreover, the problem of regionalism is linked with language. Linguistic differences remind people of their separate existence and thus a regional feeling is created.

5. Influence of caste: The possibility of regionalism also arises when the people of a particular caste get concentrated in a particular region of the country. Besides this, the economic backwardness of several castes and tribes also becomes a cause of the development of regionalism. For example, the main factor responsible for the problem of the Bodo tribal people living in Kokharjhar, Nalbari and Dárang regions of Assam is their economic backwardness.

6. Lack of Means of Communication: This handicaps several regions and makes them isolated or cut off. Therefore, they are unable to join the national main-stream.

7. Migration from other States: People inhabiting different States in India enjoy the freedom to settle and work in other States. In such situations, when the people of the native State find people belonging to other States, holding key positions in their own State or find them richer than themselves, a feeling of regionalism creeps in.

8. Political Factors: It has been seen that politicians flare up feelings of regionalism among the people to gain power and launch agitations which are based on regional interests. Sometimes, regional politicians think that if separate States come into existence, the possibility of their acquiring power will increase considerably. So they instigate on different occasions the regional feelings based on caste, language, religion, economic backwardness etc.

9. Role of Regional Parties: Although the regional parties are a product of regionalism, as they come and estab-

lish themselves, they preach and spread regionalism and instigate the regional feelings in order to strengthen their base and to realise their ambition of capturing power.

10. Rising Frustrations of People: Economic and social problems of people have led to rising frustrations in the minds of people. Certain people have developed the misconception that the solution to their problems lies in giving priority to regional interests over the national interests. To add to it, there are the regional leaders who have taken full advantage of this frustration of the people.

Although the problem of regionalism cannot be solved fully, its effect can be minimised. We need to develop a proper understanding among people and also give attention to the balanced development of the people.

Q. What has been the impact of India's agrarian policy on the social structure in rural India?

Ans. The aim of agrarian policy in India has been to provide social and economic justice to the people of India. However, in spite of several efforts, Indian rural society remains divided into various categories. Some of these are as follows:

(a) Feudal Landlords: The Acts which were passed for the abolition of feudalism in India have not been implemented effectively. The feudal system still exists in a number of States. The tillers have no right to the land. Even today, the sources of investment of the tenants are limited and they have to take loans from the landlords at very high rates of interest.

(b) Capitalist Farmers: This is the category of persons who are owners of big farms and are getting cultivation done with

the help of labourers and machines. Machines get used more than labourers. The major part of the agricultural income falls to the share of farm owners and only a very small fraction of the income is distributed as wages among the labourers.

Labourers are exploited at a large scale.

(c) **Small Farmers:** About 51% of the land holdings in India are of less than one hectare. Consequently, there are a large number of poor farmers in India. There are two categories of small poor farmers (i) the farmers whose land holding is small but they manage to feed themselves.

(ii) Those farmers who have insufficient land and work on the lands of the others on wages in their spare time. Landless labourers fall into the second category. Small farmers are forced to take debts. Thus the strength of the landless labourers is increasing in India.

(d) **Landless Workers:** These are the persons who work as labourers in the agricultural sector and whose main source of income is the wages from agriculture. Landless workers are categorised into the following—Bonded labourers, small farmers, share croppers, tenants.

These landless labourers are burdened with debt of the money-lenders due to the fulfilment of their daily needs and soaring prices. The ratio of debt has been found to increase in all States except Assam and West Bengal.

Besides this, the post independence agrarian policy has also had certain good impact on the deprived sections. Following are some of the examples:

- Surplus land acquired as a result of land reforms has been distributed among landless peasants, where special care was taken to give land to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and other backward sections of society.
- Certain special laws were enacted for protecting the rights of cultivators.
- Schemes were formulated under the Community Development Projects to benefit the deprived sections.
- Provisions were also made for the abolition of bonded labour.
- Wages of farm labourers have been increased considerably.

■ Rural people are more aware of their rights and interests.

However, all this has not been enough to improve the lot of the rural society. Increases in wages of landless peasants and farm labourers has been considerably less than increases in prices. There have been some increases in wages but there is a big gap between reality and theoretical information. Moreover, the Green Revolution led to the emergence of a new capital class without any particular improvement in the condition of poor and small farmers.

There are various steps that can be taken to improve the future conditions:

- Implementing the land reform Acts in an effective manner.
- Ascertaining the service conditions of the landless labourers.
- To effectively pass on the benefits of rural development schemes to the people of lower classes.
- Encouraging cooperatives in rural development.
- Making efforts to abolish bonded labour
- Increase employment in villages.

Q. Comment on the Centre-State conflict on finances.

Ans. There has been growing tension, over the years, between the Centre and the States in the matter of finance. Very often, this is aggravated by political and ideological differences between the different parties governing the Centre and the States. It has been pointed out that there is a need for political and financial autonomy for the States and drastic restriction of the power and financial resources of the Centre. The States hold various grudges against the Centre:

(a) Insufficient initiative on the part of the Centre to impose all taxes under Article 269 whose proceeds would go to the States.

(b) From the very beginning, corporation tax has been excluded from the scope of sharing with the States. The States feel particularly sore about this because their contribution to the development of the corporate sector is quite large. They incur considerable expenditure to provide direct infrastructural facilities. They also provide

considerable financial incentives for the setting up of industries.

(c) The Central excise duties have been expanded by including under it a growing number of items that were taxed by the State.

(d) The divisible pool of excise duties has been limited to basic duties and additional excise duties. The special and auxiliary duties have been kept out of the divisible pool. The Centre has kept the rates of divisible additional excise duties low while the rates of excise duties and the special and auxiliary duties that are not to be shared with the States or to be shared only in smaller proportions.

(e) The Centre abolished the railway passenger tax whose proceeds were to go to the States and fixed arbitrarily a grant in its place.

(f) The Centre imposed surcharges on income tax but the proceeds were not shared with the States.

(g) The Centre wants to abolish the sales tax which is the main source of revenue of the States and accounts for 60 per cent of the States' own tax revenue. There have also been proposals to abolish Octroi duties and State Excises. Thus, the States are gradually left with lesser number of resources to raise their revenues. By depending upon the Centre, the States are running the risk of losing their economic independence.

These problems are accentuated by the fact that while revenues of the States are increasing only gradually, the expenses are increasing at a fast rate. Too much dependence of the States on the Centre in the form of grants-in-aid and loans has serious consequences. The Centre can be more generous to some States and less to others. Second, there is always an uncertainty in the budgeting of the States. Third, States are unable to fulfil the various electoral promises because of inadequacy of financial resources. Fourth, most States have resorted to unauthorised overdrafts to finance plan projects.

However, those who are in favour of a strong Centre reject the case for more functions and resources for the States. It is said that this would pose a danger to national integrity. Some States which are ideologically different from others might

like to break away from the federation on some pretext or other. In the Indian context, it cannot even be said firmly that 'State autonomy' would liberate creative energies at present inhibited by constant Central interference and domination or that State autonomy would promote rapid economic growth. The fact is that very few regional parties governing the States have a firm economic ideology. Most are parochial in their outlook. Moreover, it has also been pointed out that States do enjoy considerable autonomy. They have exclusive control over such key sectors as agriculture, irrigation, power, administration, social welfare, law and order etc. But not all States have been able to perform their functions properly. They have also not been able to fully exploit the resources at their command, thus talks of any new resource do not hold much substance.

On the whole, it is seen that States have become increasingly dependent on the Centre for their expenditure. This dependence is the natural consequence of the enormous command enjoyed by the Centre over large resources of revenue. This has resulted in a creditor-debtor relationship. This also suits the States well because they are spared from the unpleasant task of taking unpopular tax measures and can blame all problems to the Centre.

The Sarkaria Commission, which had submitted its report in 1988, had favoured the amendment of the Constitution to provide for sharing of corporation tax between the Centre and the States. However, all suggestions for enlarging the divisible pool were rejected.

The debate on Centre-State financial relations still remains open and there is a need now to review the relations and set up some firm guidelines.

Q. What does Corporate Governance imply? What are some of the ways of implementing it?

Ans. A corporation is an enterprise or firm legally authorised by law and society to conduct and operate a business. As a concept, governance means a degree of control to be exercised by key shareholders' representatives—this could in-

clude the government. It is normally understood that a corporation exists for a purpose which is determined by the board of governors or directors. They also set broad directions for their achievement by the executive directors.

Corporations are constituted legal bodies and therefore, assume concomitant social and legal responsibilities. At their inception, business enterprises are economic entities. However, as they grow, the emphasis shifts towards a more social character. Social responsibilities could include pollution control, maintaining ecological equilibrium, community development etc.

In a wider perspective, the socio-economic and competitive character of a corporation implies that it will have to make a choice of the competitive strategy within the ambit of legal, social and ethical boundaries. Existing laws of the land cannot be broken or manipulated for a corporation's profitability. Even if some laws seem out-of-date and hindering, efforts can be made to change the laws but not break them. Moreover, the formulation and implementation of any strategy can only take place within the framework of core values of the organisation's main decision-makers.

There can be a number of ways of improving and ensuring corporate governance. There are three main factors involved here (a) generation of growth and efficiency through more autonomy and accountability (b) raising the level of investor protection (c) investor protection should adhere to international prices as regards quality and quantum of financial information.

Companies with public shareholding should have relatively more self-regulation. A strong structure of internal management leads to faster growth and good corporate governance. Another issue is that there are no reporting formats or stipulations regarding information to the board of directors. Law should prescribe reports on operating efficiency, financial information, structuring of business financing, interested party transactions and all external investment.

There is also a need to improve the

quality of information to directors and shareholders. The publication of half yearly results should also be improved to give segmental information, and more importantly comment on future trend. The entire annual report should be made more meaningful and precise. It also helps if tables of ratios as well as trend analyse charts are introduced.

Our tax policies so far have mainly led to a whittling down of the promoter's stake. There should be a national consensus on the appropriate methodology. A good alternative could be the system of golden share, where the voting rights lapse if the company incurs cash losses for two continuous years.

We also need to introduce measures to liberalise the working of business organisations. The concept of limited partnerships and a simpler law for smaller companies would lead to the faster growth and distribution of small scale companies.

To have a liberalised law is an advantage but it is important to have a balanced administration that would ensure good governance and investor protection.

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GENERAL AWARENESS

Combined Defence Services Exam, December 1996

We are grateful to Mr Narender Dhall of Jind (Haryana) and Mr Mahendar Reddy of Hyderabad for sending to us the original question booklet of this examination

1 Vegetative propagation

- (a) is an ancient practice
- (b) is a more rapid, easier and cheaper method of propagating plants
- (c) enables rapid reproduction of genetic variation
- (d) gives rise to genetically uniform propagation called the clone

2 Which one of the following was set up during the Seventh Five-Year Plan to help the low income groups?

- (a) NABARD
- (b) Regional Rural Bank
- (c) National Housing Bank
- (d) UTI Bank

3 Asoka expressed regret over the bloodshed in his conquest of Kalinga in his edict referred to as the

- (a) Pillar Edict VII
- (b) Minor Rock Edict I
- (c) Lumbini Pillar Edict
- (d) Rock Edict XIII

4 Match List I (locations) with List II (industries) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists

List I	List II
A Bhagalpur	1. Cement
B Sahjanwan	2 Sugar
C Satara	3 Jute
D Dwaraka	4 Silk

Codes:

	A	B	C	D
(a)	4	3	2	1
(b)	1	2	3	4
(c)	4	2	3	1
(d)	1	3	2	4

5 Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists

List I	List II
A Pyrolysis	1 Takes place in the absence of oxygen
B Gasification	2 Transfer of solid fuel to gaseous energy carrier
C Biomass liquefaction	3 Direct transfer of solid organic waste to liquid fuel
D Combustion	4 Takes place in the presence of oxygen

Codes:

	A	B	C	D
(a)	1	2	3	4
(b)	2	3	4	1
(c)	1	3	2	4
(d)	3	2	1	4

6 Consider the following statements For photosynthesis, plants require

- 1 sunlight
- 2 carbon dioxide
- 3 oxygen
- 4 water

Of these statements

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 are correct
- (b) 1 and 2 are correct
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 are correct
- (d) 3 and 4 are correct

7 The Sind ruler who was defeated by the Arabs was

- (a) Dahar
- (b) Chach
- (c) Chandra
- (d) Jaisiya

8 Which one of the following items fetches the maximum foreign exchange for India?

- (a) Tea
- (b) Oil cakes
- (c) Fish and fish products
- (d) Spices

9 Which of the following statements is/are correct?

Breathing is an essential process of life because it

- 1 brings to the blood the oxygen needed by the cells for cellular respiration
- 2 rids the body of carbon dioxide
- 3 promotes combination with oxygen in the lungs
- 4 aids in the transport of carbon dioxide from the tissues

Select the correct answer from the codes given below

Codes:

- (a) 4 alone
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

10 Match List I (scientist) with List II (laws/discoveries) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists

List I	List II
A Kepler	1 Uncertainty Principle
B Heisenberg	2 Photoelectric effect
C Einstein	3 Quantum Theory
D Planck	4 Laws of planetary motion

Codes:

	A	B	C	D
(a)	2	1	3	4
(b)	4	3	2	1
(c)	2	3	1	4
(d)	4	1	2	3

11 Which one of the following States does *not* lie on the Tropic of Cancer?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Mizoram
- (c) Tripura
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

12 To explain the apparent separateness among created beings, Sankaracharya developed the concept of

- (a) Arya-satya
- (b) Ahimsa
- (c) Maya
- (d) Bhakti

13 Iron ore from the Bailadilla mines is exported through

- (a) Tuticorin
- (b) Calcutta
- (c) Visakhapattanam
- (d) Paradeep

14 Which one of the following completed the 100th anniversary of its discovery in 1995?

- (a) Detergents (b) Photography
(c) X-rays (d) Diesel engine
15. The enzyme pepsin converts
(a) carbohydrates to sugars
(b) proteins to amino acids
(c) proteins to peptones
(d) fats to fatty acids and glycerol
16. Important Sanskrit works such as *Mahabharata* and the *Upanishads* were translated into Persian by:
(a) Babur (b) Akbar
(c) Dara Shikoh (d) Jahangir
17. The 1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded for the discovery related to:
(a) a new drug for AIDS
(b) a new drug for cancer
(c) a new sub-atomic particle
(d) destruction of ozone layer of the atmosphere
18. Tetanus is a disease caused by
(a) Fungus (b) Virus
(c) Bacteria (d) Dust and Cowdung
19. Akbar established Ibadat Khana at
(a) Lahore (b) Delhi
(c) Agra (d) Fatehpur Sikri
20. At which one of the following places should India strengthen her naval defences against potential threat from the Chinese navy?
(a) Cochin (b) Indira Point
(c) Male Atoll (d) Paradeep
21. The vaccine triple antigen is given to children to protect them against Diphtheria,
(a) Polio and Tetanus
(b) Whooping cough and Tetanus
(c) Whooping cough and Tuberculosis
(d) Polio and Tuberculosis
22. Which one of the following is a premier research organization in India having a network of 39 laboratories and 101 extension centres?
(a) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
(b) Indian Council of Medical Research
(c) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
(d) Indian Agricultural Research Institute
23. Tulsī composed his *Ramacharitamans* during the reign of
(a) Harsha (b) Alauddin Khilji
(c) Akbar (d) Krishna Raya
24. Which one of the following Indian States has very nearly the same population density as Bangladesh?
(a) Bihar (b) Kerala
(c) Tamil Nadu (d) Uttar Pradesh
25. The Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission of India is:
(a) R. Chidambaram (b) S.K. Joshi
(c) M.S. Swaminathan (d) K. Kasturirangan
26. Vitamin C is not found in
(a) tomato (b) guava
(c) orange (d) milk
27. Which one of the following Census decades has recorded the highest growth rate of population of India?
(a) 1951-61 (b) 1961-71
(c) 1971-81 (d) 1981-91
28. Who among the following Vijayanagar rulers is considered to be the greatest patron of literature?
(a) Devaraya I (b) Rama Raja

- (c) Devaraya II (d) Krishnadeva Raya
29. A pager is a
(a) superconducting device
(b) FM radio receiver electronic device
(c) quartz crystal
(d) device using optical fibres
30. Binomial nomenclature was introduced by
(a) Lamarck (b) Linnaeus
(c) Darwin (d) Mendel
31. In the rough outline map of India shown in the given figure, National Remote Sensing Agency, Indian Air Force station, Hindustan Shipyard and an International Airport respectively are at the locations marked



- (a) D, C, A and B (b) C, A, D and B
(c) B, A, D and C (d) B, C, A and D
32. In the 17th century, the chief Dutch centres of trade were located at:
(a) Cochin, Pulicat and Madras
(b) Mahe, Karaikal and Patna
(c) Surat, Masulipatnam and Chandrenagore
(d) Chinsura, Balasore and Nagapatnam
33. Which one of the following is present in gobar gas?
(a) Carbon dioxide (b) Ethane
(c) Methane (d) Hydrogen
34. Which one of the following has recently been identified as endangering the ecology of Nainital lake?
(a) Water sports (b) Sullage water
(c) Silting (d) Plastics
35. Two of the most common elements in the earth's crust would include
(a) nitrogen and oxygen
(b) nitrogen and silicon
(c) carbon and oxygen
(d) silicon and oxygen
36. Consider the following statements regarding the government of India Act, 1919:
1. It set up a bicameral legislature at the Centre
2. It introduced the system of direct elections in the provinces
3. It introduced Dyarchy in the provinces
Of these statements
(a) 1 and 2 are correct
(b) 2 and 3 are correct
(c) 1, 2 and 3 are correct
(d) 1 and 3 are correct
37. Which one of the following is a greenhouse gas?
(a) Oxygen
(b) Hydrogen

- (c) Carbon dioxide
(d) Nitrogen

38 Which one of the following pairs of organizations and programmes is *not* correctly matched?

- (a) Brahma Samaj—Women's education
(b) Arya Samaj—Sudhi Movement
(c) Ramakrishna Mission—Abolition of child marriage
(d) Paramahansa Mandal—Fighting untouchability

39 Fire extinguishers release

- (a) hydrogen
(b) nitrogen
(c) carbon dioxide
(d) carbon monoxide

40 Which one of the following food materials contains phosphorus?

- (a) Onion (b) Mango
(c) Meat (d) Egg yolk

41 Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists

List I	List II
A Dadabhai Naoroji	1 Home Rule Movement in India
B Annie Besant	2 Servants of India Society
C Gopal Krishna Gokhale	3 Thrice President of Indian National Congress
D Sri Aurobindo	4 Extremist turned spiritualist

Codes:

	A	B	C	D
(a)	1	3	4	2
(b)	1	3	2	4
(c)	3	1	2	4
(d)	3	1	4	2

42 Consider the following statements regarding the Nehru Report (1928)

- 1 It favoured Dominion Status
2 It rejected the system of Communal Electorate
3 It was against the setting up of a Supreme Court
Of these statements

- (a) 1 alone is correct
(b) 1 and 3 are correct
(c) 2 and 3 are correct
(d) 1 and 2 are correct

43 The development of which one of the following industries is mostly in the public sector?

- (a) Iron and steel (b) Sugar
(c) Jute (d) Cotton textiles

44 Root hairs absorb water from the soil on account of

- (a) plasmolysis
(b) difference in osmotic concentration
(c) difference in turgor
(d) different ions present in the soil water

45 Which one of the following pairs is *not* correctly matched?

- (a) Highest sex-ratio in India Kerala
(b) State with the largest proportion of population of India Uttar Pradesh
(c) State with the highest decadal population growth (1991 census) Nagaland

- (d) Highest density of Population among Indian States and Union Territories Chandigarh

46 In which one of the following countries coalition governments have been functioning with stability?

- (a) England (b) France
(c) Germany (d) Portugal

47 The corrugated iron sheets used for roofing are coated with zinc. This process is called

- (a) electroplating
(b) galvanising
(c) alloying
(d) melting

48 Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

- 1 Direct tax Corporation tax
2 Non-economic factor Religion
3 Private sector Consumer goods

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

Codes:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 1 and 2
(c) 1 and 3 (d) 2 and 3

49 The 'August Offer' of 1940, rejected by the Congress was made by

- (a) Lord Wavell
(b) Lord Linlithgow
(c) Sir George Stanley
(d) Lord Willingdon

50 Which of the following pairs of publications and the agency publishing it are correctly matched?

- 1 Economic Survey Government of India
2 Report on Currency and Finance—Economic Review Ministry of Finance
3 Bulletin on Food Statistics Director, Division of Reports, Reviews and Publications Reserve Bank of India, Bombay
Planning Commission, Government of India

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

Codes:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 1 and 2
(c) 1 and 3 (d) 2 and 3

51 The computer system which links and stores information among different countries of the world through a satellite is known as

- (a) Apollo (b) Insat-1A
(c) Internet (d) NICNET

52 Who among the following pioneered the movement leading to the Widow Remarriage Act?

- (a) Raja Rammohun Roy
(b) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
(c) Swami Vivekananda
(d) Ramakrishna Paramahansa

53 Consider the following rural development programmes

- 1 Food For Work Programme
2 Community Development Programme
3 TRYSEM
4 IRDP

The correct chronological sequence of the launching of these programmes by the government is

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4 (b) 2, 1, 4, 3
(c) 1, 2, 4, 3 (d) 2, 1, 3, 4

54 In an oil lamp, holes are placed below the chimney

so that

- (a) smoke can escape out
- (b) the lamp gives a brighter light
- (c) supply of oxygen is maintained to keep the lamp burning
- (d) heat generated in burning is dissipated outside

55. The principal governors in the Vijayanagar Empire were styled as

- (a) Nayaks
- (b) Ranaks
- (c) Rayas
- (d) Senapathis

56. Nationalisation of 14 commercial banks was effected in

- (a) 1959
- (b) 1965
- (c) 1969
- (d) 1975

57. A small irregular piece of camphor, when placed on the surface of pure water dances about on the surface because

- (a) camphor is lighter than water
- (b) there is a local decrease in the surface tension of water when camphor dissolves in it
- (c) the weight of camphor changes due to evaporation
- (d) water molecules exert a viscous drag on the camphor molecules

58. Which one of the following cities is known as the financial capital of India?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Madras
- (c) Chandigarh
- (d) Mumbai

59. The Durgapur steel plant was established in collaboration with

- (a) Britain
- (b) USA
- (c) the then USSR
- (d) the then West Germany

60. The Sikh Guru who compiled the Guru Granth Sahib was

- (a) Guru Nanak Dev
- (b) Guru Har Rai
- (c) Guru Arjun Dev
- (d) Guru Tegh Bahadur

61. The earliest evidence regarding a ploughed field has been found at

- (a) Lothal
- (b) Kalibangan
- (c) Atranji Khera
- (d) Maski

62. The captain of a ship observed that it was 12 noon, turned on the radio and listened to the 7 A.M. B.B.C. news. Along which one of the following meridians is his ship located?

- (a) 60 E
- (b) 60 W
- (c) 75 E
- (d) 75 W

63. The study of which one of the following planets led Galileo to disprove the geocentric concept of the solar system?

- (a) Venus
- (b) Mercury
- (c) Earth
- (d) Jupiter

64. The contribution to the National Income of India is the highest from the

- (a) industrial sector
- (b) exports
- (c) agricultural sector
- (d) public undertakings

65. Which one of the following is the most sensitive indicator of the health of a community?

- (a) Birth rate
- (b) Infant mortality rate
- (c) Death rate
- (d) Maternal mortality rate

66. The area(s) in which the Rigvedic hymns were composed were mainly

- (a) Haryana and Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Gujarat and Rajasthan
- (c) Punjab and Haryana
- (d) Afghanistan

67. The Cogentrix power project is to be located in

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Madhya Pradesh

68. A group of small heavenly bodies forming a belt rotating round the sun is known as a/an

- (a) satellite
- (b) planet
- (c) comet
- (d) asteroid

69. In the field of milk production in the world, India occupies the

- (a) first position
- (b) second position
- (c) third position
- (d) fourth position

70. Which of the following countries are part of the European Economic Community?

- 1. Portugal
- 2. Belgium
- 3. Greece
- 4. Poland

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

Codes:

- (a) 1, 2 and 4
- (b) 1, 3 and 4
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) 2, 3 and 4

ANSWERS

1. (d)
2. (a)
3. (d) *The Oxford History of India* by V. Smith, page 119.
4. (a)
5. (a)
6. (c)
7. (a)
8. (a)
9. (d)
10. (d)
11. (d)
12. (c)
13. (d)
14. (c)
15. (b)
16. (c)
17. (d)
18. (d)
19. (d)
20. (d)
21. (b)
22. (c)
23. (c)
24. (d)
25. (a)
26. (d)
27. (b) *Growth Rate: 1951-61 (21.51%); 1961-71 (24.80%); 1971-81 (24.66%); 1981-91 (23.85%)*
28. (d)
29. (b)
30. (b)
31. (b)
32. (d) At Chinsura in 1653; at Balasore and Nagapatam in 1658.
The most important of Dutch factories in India were at Masulipatam (1605), Pulicat (1610), Surat (1616), Bimlipatam (1641), Karikal (1645), Chinsura (1653), Caasimbazar, Baranagore, Patna, Balasore, Nagapatam (1658) and Cochin (1663).
An Advanced History of India by R.C. Majumdar and others, page 626.
33. (c)
34. (b)
35. (d)
36. (c)
37. (c)
38. (c)
39. (c)
40. (c)
41. (c)
42. (a) *The Oxford History of India* by V. Smith, page 794. (The principal authors of Nehru Report (1928) were Pt Motilal Nehru and Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru).
43. (a)
44. (a)
45. (d)
46. (c)
47. (b)
48. (b)
49. (b)
50. (b)
51. (c)
52. (b)
53. (b)
54. (c)
55. (a)
56. (c)
57. (d)
58. (d)
59. (a)
60. (c)
61. (b)
62. (c)
63. (d)
64. (c)
65. (b)
66. (c)
67. (b)
68. (d)
69. (b)
70. (c)

(Balance questions and answers will appear in December, 1997 issue)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Combined Defence Services Exam, December 1996

USAGE

Spotting Errors (Items 1 to 15)

Directions:

(i) In this Section a number of sentences are given. The sentences are in three separate parts and each one is marked (a), (b), (c). Read each sentence to find out whether there is an error in any part. No sentence has more than one error. When you find an error in any one of the parts (a), (b) or (c), indicate your response on the separate Answer Sheet at the appropriate space. You may feel that there is no error in a sentence. In that case letter *d* will signify a 'No error' response.

(ii) You are to indicate only one response for each item in your Answer Sheet. (If you indicate more than one response, your answer will be considered wrong.) Errors may be in grammar, word usage or idioms. There may be a word missing or there may be a word which should be removed.

(iii) You are *not* required to correct the error. You are required *only* to indicate your response on the Answer Sheet. Examples P and Q have been solved for you.

P The young child(a) singed(b) a very sweet song (c) No error (d)

Q We worked(a) very hard(b) throughout the season (c) No error (d)

Explanation: In item P the word 'singed' is wrong. The letter under this part is (b), so 'b' is the correct answer. Similarly, for item Q, 'd' is the correct answer, as the sentence does not contain any error.

Now attempt items 1 to 15

1 At the moment the house(a) was burgled the family(b) attended a night party in the neighbourhood (c) No error (d)

2 Supposing if(a) there is no bus,(b) how will you get there?(c) No error (d)

3 Though child marriage(a) has been banned,(b) the custom still prevailed among some groups in India (c) No error (d)

4. He will end up his work(a) in

the city(b) by the end of the year (c) No error (d)

5 She reluctantly said that(a) if nobody else was doing it(b) she will do it (c) No error (d)

6 Since India has gained Independence(a) 49 years ago,(b) much progress has been made in almost every field (c) No error (d)

7 They have been(a) very close friends(b) until they quarrelled (c) No error (d)

8 He is not coming tomorrow(a) as he is having a pain in the chest(b) and has to see a doctor (c) No error (d)

9 I could not put up in a hotel(a) because the boarding and lodging charges(b) were exorbitant (c) No error (d)

10 We discussed about the problem so thoroughly(a) on the eve of the examination(b) that I found it very easy to work it out (c) No error (d)

11 He asked his friend(a) why you are not listening(b) to your mother (c) No error (d)

12 Happily, zoos were(a) unwilling to co-operate(b) in a scheme that was potentially harmful to animal welfare (c) No error (d)

13 Many times the news has been published(a) in the papers that the end of the world will be certain(b) if a nuclear war breaks out (c) No error (d)

14 At the end of the year(a) every student who had done adequate work(b) was automatically promoted (c) No error (d)

15 When he was asked what is wrong with him,(a) he said that he was not well,(b) and asked for leave of absence for one day (c) No error (d)

Sentence Improvement (Items 16 to 30)

Directions:

Look at the underlined part of each sentence. Below each sentence are given three possible substitutions for the underlined part. If one of them (a), (b) or (c) is better than the underlined part, indicate your response on the Answer Sheet against the corresponding letter (a), (b) or (c). If none of the

substitutions improve the sentence indicate (d) as your response on the Answer Sheet. Thus a 'No improvement' response will be signified by the letter (d). Examples R and S have been solved for you.

R The young child sung a very sweet song

- (a) singed the
- (b) singed
- (c) sang a
- (d) No improvement

S I have already read this book twice

- (a) I already twice have read this book
- (b) I twice have already read this book
- (c) I have twice already read this book
- (d) No improvement

Explanation

R For item R, the correct sentence should read, 'The young child sang a very sweet song.' 'c' is therefore, the correct answer.

S Item S is a correct sentence. None of the changes suggested will improve it. 'd' is therefore, the correct answer.

Errors may be in grammar, appropriate word usage or idioms. There may be a necessary word missing or there may be a word which should be removed.

Now attempt items 16 to 30

16 Mr Smith arrived at India in June last year

- (a) to
- (b) by
- (c) in
- (d) No improvement

17 If he would have tried he would have succeeded

- (a) is tried
- (b) was tried
- (c) had tried
- (d) No improvement

18 He was fined for careless driving

- (a) got fined
- (b) fined
- (c) was to be fined
- (d) No improvement

19 He could not look anything in the dark room

- (a) look at
- (b) see
- (c) see through

(d) No improvement
20 Why the dinosaurs died out is not known

- (a) it is not known
- (b) the reason is not known
- (c) that is not known
- (d) No improvement

21 I will not go to school if it shall rain tomorrow

- (a) it would rain tomorrow
- (b) it will rain tomorrow
- (c) it rains tomorrow
- (d) No improvement

22 Realising the significance of technical education for a developing country, the government laid aside a large sum on it during the last plan period

- (a) laid up
- (b) set aside
- (c) laid out
- (d) No improvement

23 Will you kindly open the knot?

- (a) unite
- (b) break
- (c) loose
- (d) No improvement

24 When the examinations were over Anil and me went to our native town

- (a) me and Anil
- (b) Anil and I
- (c) I and Anil
- (d) No improvement

25 I have lived in Delhi since I was four

- (a) am living
- (b) lived
- (c) had lived
- (d) No improvement

26 I want you to clearly understand that excuses won't do

- (a) you clearly to understand
- (b) you to understand clearly
- (c) to clearly understand you
- (d) No improvement

27 My friend was in hospital for a week after an accident

- (a) through
- (b) following
- (c) for
- (d) No improvement

28 If you cross the line you will be disqualified

- (a) cross upon the line
- (b) cross on the line
- (c) cross out the line
- (d) No improvement

29 John had told me that he hasn't done it yet

- (a) told
- (b) tells
- (c) was telling
- (d) No improvement

30 We look forward to hear from you

- (a) hearing
- (b) have heard
- (c) listen
- (d) No improvement

VOCABULARY

Synonyms (Items 31 to 40)

Directions.

In this Section you find a number of sentences, parts of which are underlined. You may also find only a group of words which is underlined. For each underlined part, four words/phrases are listed below. Choose the word nearest in meaning to the underlined part.

Example 'E' is solved for you

F His style is quite transparent

- (a) verbose
- (b) involved
- (c) lucid
- (d) witty

Explanation In item 'E' the word 'lucid' is nearest in meaning to the word 'transparent'. So 'c' is the correct answer.

Now attempt items 31 to 40

31 Public figures should not indulge in mud slinging

- (a) caricatures
- (b) mockery
- (c) slander
- (d) quarrelling

32 The thief outwitted the constable on some pretext and disappeared on the way to the police station

- (a) defeated
- (b) befooled
- (c) cheated
- (d) outmanoeuvred

33 The angry villagers have lynched two suspected child lifters already

- (a) beaten up
- (b) captured
- (c) killed
- (d) mutilated

34 When he could not endure the cruel ragging any longer, the new recruit bravely stood up to all his bullying seniors

- (a) challenged
- (b) fought back
- (c) resisted
- (d) defeated

35 Even though singing of ballads is no longer lucrative, the Bhopas of Rajasthan continue to sing them in order to cherish the memory of their royal warriors

- (a) tempting
- (b) attractive

(c) profitable (d) honourable
36 The pioneers left a blazing trail of courage, manliness and chivalry

- (a) inventors
- (b) explorers
- (c) colonialists
- (d) settlers

37 Some people just cannot compromise where truth is concerned

- (a) adjust
- (b) accommodate
- (c) yield
- (d) conciliate

38 Traffic being what it is, it is lamentable that our roads are unable to take the load

- (a) unpardonable
- (b) deplorable
- (c) inexcusable
- (d) terrible

39 It is very difficult to retain all that you hear in the class

- (a) keep
- (b) recall
- (c) preserve
- (d) conserve

40 Everybody likes him because he is an industrious student

- (a) energetic
- (b) prompt
- (c) excellent
- (d) diligent

ANSWERS

- 1 (a) The moment the house
- 2 (a) If
- 3 (c) 'the custom still prevails among'
- 4 (a) He will end his work
- 5 (c) 'she would do it'
- 6 (a) 'Since India gained independence'
- 7 (a) 'They had been'
- 8 (c) and he has to see a doctor
- 9 (a) 'I could not put up at a hotel'
- 10 (a) 'We discussed the problem so thoroughly'
- 11 (b) 'why he was not listening'
- 12 (c) 'on a scheme that
- 13 (d) 'No error'
- 14 (d) 'No error'
- 15 (a) 'when he was asked what was wrong with him'
- 16 (c) 17 (c) 18 (d)
- 19 (b) 20 (d) 21 (c)
- 22 (b) 23 (a) 24 (b)
- 25 (d) 26 (d) 27 (b)
- 28 (d) 29 (b) 30 (a)
- 31 (c) 32 (a) 33 (c)
- 34 (c) 35 (c) 36 (d)
- 37 (a) 38 (b) 39 (a)
- 40 (d)

(Balance questions and answers will appear in December, 1997 issue)

Quantitative Aptitude

1 If the side of a square is 24 cm, then the circumference of its circumscribed circle is

- (a) $24\sqrt{3}\pi$ (b) $24\sqrt{2}\pi$ (c) $12\sqrt{2}\pi$ (d) 24π

2 If the outer and inner radii of a ring are 10 cm and 8 cm, then its area is nearly

- (a) 113 443 sq cm (b) 113 343 sq cm
(c) 113 243 sq cm (d) 113 143 sq cm

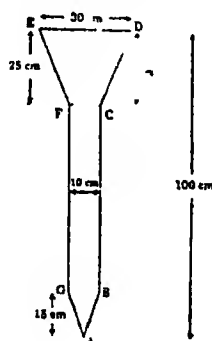
3 An isosceles right triangle has area 112.5 sq cm. The length of its hypotenuse (in cm) is

- (a) 21 213 (b) 21 013 (c) 21 113 (d) 21 313

4 The length and breadth of a room are in the ratio of 3 : 2. Its height is equal to half of its length. If the cost of carpeting the floor at Rs 4.00 per m^2 is Rs 216, then the area of the four walls (in m^2) is

- (a) 135 (b) 140 (c) 125 (d) 120

5 The area of the figure ABCDEFGA is



- (a) 1175 cm^2 (b) 1185 cm^2
(c) 1195 cm^2 (d) 1199 cm^2

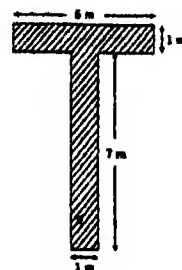
6 Two circles, each of unit radius, are so drawn that the centre of each lies on the circumference of the other. The area of the region, common to both the circles, is

- (a) $(4\pi - 3\sqrt{3})/12$ (b) $(4\pi - 6\sqrt{3})/12$
(c) $(4\pi - 3\sqrt{3})/6$ (d) $(4\pi - 6\sqrt{3})/6$

7 The area of a field surveyed is 11,200 sq m. The readings in the given field book are in meters

	To D	
	200	
	160	'x' to C
To E 'x'	120	
	80	40 to B
To F 40	40	
	From A	
The value of x will be.		
(a) 20 m	(b) 30 m	(c) 40 m (d) 50 m

8 Area of shaded portion as shown in the figure is



- (a) 12 m^2 (b) 13 m^2 (c) 14 m^2 (d) 15 m^2

9 A cuboid is such that its length is 2 times the width and the width is 2 times its height. The side of a square whose area is equal to the total surface area of the cuboid in terms of the height h of the cuboid, is

- (a) 4 h (b) 6 h (c) $2\sqrt{7}h$ (d) $4\sqrt{7}h$

10 The percentage increase in the surface area of a cube, when each side is increased to $\frac{3}{2}$ times the original length, is

- (a) 225 (b) 200 (c) 175 (d) 125

11 The dimensions of a hall are 50 m, 25 m and 9 m. If each person requires 150 cubic m, then the number of persons who can be accommodated in the hall are

- (a) 60 (b) 65 (c) 70 (d) 75

12 A tank 15 m long, 10 m wide and 6 m deep is open at the top. If the width of the sheet is 2 m, then the cost of iron sheet at the rate of Rs 5 per meter is

- (a) Rs 550 (b) Rs 1050 (c) Rs 1125 (d) Rs 1150

13 If the right circular cone is separated into three solids of volumes v_1, v_2, v_3 by two planes which are parallel to the base and trisect the altitude, then $v_1 : v_2 : v_3$ is

- (a) 1 : 2 : 3 (b) 1 : 4 : 6 (c) 1 : 6 : 9 (d) 1 : 7 : 19

14 Two cones A and B have their base radii in the ratio of 4 : 3 and their heights in the ratio 3 : 4. The ratio of volume of cone A to that of cone B is

- (a) 4 : 3 (b) 3 : 4 (c) 2 : 3 (d) 1 : 2

15 Water flows at the rate of 10 m per minute from a cylindrical pipe 5 mm in diameter. A conical vessel whose diameter at the base is 40 cm and depth 24 cm is filled. The time taken to fill the conical vessel is

- (a) 50 minutes (b) 50 minutes 12 seconds
(c) 51 minutes 12 seconds (d) 51 minutes 15 seconds

16 The volume of a right circular cone of height 10 cm and radius of base 6 cm is

- (a) $60\pi cm^3$ (b) $90\pi cm^3$
(c) $120\pi cm^3$ (d) $180\pi cm^3$

17. The ratio of radii of two cylinders is $1 : \sqrt{3}$ and their heights are in the ratio $2 : 3$. The ratio of their volumes is:

- (a) 1 : 9 (b) 2 : 9 (c) 4 : 9 (d) 5 : 9

18. A sphere of radius 4 cm has the same volume as that of a cone with a circular base of radius 4 cm. The height of the cone is:

- (a) 12 cm (b) 16 cm (c) 20 cm (d) 24 cm

19. The number of balls of radius 1 cm that can be made from a solid sphere of radius 4 cm is:

- (a) 64 (b) 16 (c) 12 (d) 4

20. A cylindrical rod whose height is 8 times its radius is melted and cast into spherical balls of the same radius. The total number of spherical balls so formed is:

- (a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 6 (d) 8

21. From the following extract of the sine table, the value of $\sin 37^\circ 27'$ is equal to:

	0'	6'	12'	18'	24'	30'	36'	42'	48'	54'	1'	2'	3'	4'	5'
37°	0.6018	6032	6046	6060	6074	6088	6101	6115	6129	6143	2	5	7	9	12

- (a) 0.6075 (b) 0.6081 (c) 0.6088 (d) 0.6115

22. The value of $4 \cot^2 \frac{\pi}{3} + \sec^2 \frac{\pi}{6} - \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{4}$ is:

- (a) $\frac{13}{6}$ (b) $\frac{11}{6}$ (c) $\frac{7}{6}$ (d) $\frac{5}{6}$

23. The value of $\cos^2 30^\circ - \cos^2 60^\circ - \cos 60^\circ$ is:

- (a) 0 (b) $1/2$ (c) $3/4$ (d) 1

24. The value of

$$\frac{\tan^2 60^\circ - 2 \tan^2 45^\circ + \sec^2 30^\circ}{3 \sin^2 45^\circ \sin 90^\circ + \cos^2 60^\circ \cos^3 0^\circ} \text{ is:}$$

- (a) $\frac{49}{12}$ (b) $\frac{7}{3}$ (c) $\frac{14}{9}$ (d) $\frac{4}{3}$

25. If $\sin \theta = \frac{8}{17}$ where $0^\circ < \theta < 90^\circ$, then $\tan \theta + \sec \theta$ is:

- (a) $1/3$ (b) $2/3$ (c) $4/3$ (d) $5/3$

26. Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) $\sin 45^\circ \cos 45^\circ = 1$ (b) $\sin^2 45^\circ - \cos^2 45^\circ = 1$
(c) $\sin 30^\circ + \cos 60^\circ = 1$ (d) $\cos^2 30^\circ - \cos 60^\circ = 1$

27. $(\sin \theta + \cos \theta)(1 - \sin \theta \cos \theta)$ can be written as:

- (a) $\sin \theta + \cos \theta$ (b) $\sin^3 \theta - \cos^3 \theta$
(c) $\sin^3 \theta + \cos^3 \theta$ (d) $\sin \theta - \cos \theta$

28. $\frac{\tan \theta}{(1 + \tan^2 \theta)^2} + \frac{\cot \theta}{(1 + \cot^2 \theta)^2}$ is equal to:

- (a) $2 \sin \theta \cdot \cos \theta$ (b) $\operatorname{cosec} \theta \cdot \sec \theta$
(c) $\sin \theta \cdot \cos \theta$ (d) $2 \operatorname{cosec} \theta \cdot \sec \theta$

29. $\frac{\tan \theta}{\sec \theta - 1} + \frac{\tan \theta}{\sec \theta + 1}$ is equal to:

- (a) $\operatorname{cosec} \theta$ (b) $2 \operatorname{cosec} \theta$
(c) $\sec \theta$ (d) $2 \sec \theta$

30. The expression $(\tan \theta + \sec \theta)^2$ is equal to:

- (a) $\frac{1 + \cos \theta}{1 - \cos \theta}$ (b) $\frac{1 + \sin \theta}{1 - \sin \theta}$
(c) $\frac{1 - \cos \theta}{1 + \cos \theta}$ (d) $\frac{1 - \sin \theta}{1 + \sin \theta}$

31. $\sec^2 \theta + \operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta$ is equal to:

- (a) $\sec^2 \theta \cdot \cot^2 \theta$ (b) $\sec^2 \theta \cdot \tan^2 \theta$
(c) $\operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta \cdot \cot^2 \theta$ (d) $\sec^2 \theta \cdot \operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta$

32. The expression

$3(\sin x - \cos x)^4 + 6(\sin x + \cos x)^2 + 4(\sin^6 x + \cos^6 x)$ is equal to:

- (a) 10 (b) 11 (c) 12 (d) 13

33. If $n = \frac{\cos \alpha}{\cos \beta}$, $m = \frac{\sin \alpha}{\sin \beta}$, then $(m^2 - n^2) \sin^2 \beta$ is:

- (a) $1 - n$ (b) $1 + n$ (c) $1 - n^2$ (d) $1 + n^2$

34. From the top of a house 32 meters high, if the angle of elevation of the top of a tower is 45° and the angle of depression of the foot of the tower is 30° , then the height of the tower is:

- (a) $\frac{32}{\sqrt{3}}(\sqrt{3} + 1)$ meters (b) $32(\sqrt{3} + 1)$ meters
(c) $32\sqrt{3}$ meters (d) $\frac{32}{3}(\sqrt{3} + 1)$ meters

35. If the angle of elevation of an object from a point 200 meters above the lake is found to be 30° and the angle of depression of its image in the lake is 45° , then the height of the object above the lake is:

- (a) $\frac{200(\sqrt{3} - 1)}{(\sqrt{3} + 1)}$ meters (b) $\frac{200(\sqrt{3} - 1)}{\sqrt{3}}$ meters
(c) $\frac{200(\sqrt{3} + 1)}{\sqrt{3}}$ meters (d) $\frac{200(\sqrt{3} + 1)}{(\sqrt{3} - 1)}$ meters

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (b) Diameter of circumscribed circle = diagonal of a square which is equal to $\sqrt{2}a = \sqrt{2} \times 24 = 24\sqrt{2}$

\therefore Circumference of that circle = πD

$$= \pi \times 24\sqrt{2} = 24\sqrt{2}\pi$$

2. (d) Area of a ring = $\pi(R^2 - r^2) = \frac{22}{7}(10^2 - 8^2)$

$$= 113.143 \text{ sq. cm.}$$

3. (a) Area of an isosceles Δ

$$= \frac{1}{2}a^2 = 112.5 \Rightarrow a^2 = 225$$

$$\Rightarrow a = 15$$

$$\text{Length of hyp.} = \sqrt{2}a = \sqrt{2} \times 15$$

$$= 1.4142 \times 15 = 21.2130$$

4. (a) Let $L = 3x$, $B = 2x \therefore \text{Area} = 6x^2$

$$\text{A.T.S. } 6x^2 \times 4 = 216 \Rightarrow x^2 = 9 \Rightarrow x = 3$$

$$\therefore L = 9\text{m}, B = 6\text{m}, h = \frac{9}{2}\text{m}$$

$$\therefore \text{Area of four walls} = 2(L+B) \times h$$



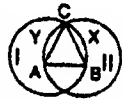
$$= 2(9+6) \times \frac{9}{2} = 135\text{m}^2$$

$$5 \text{ (a) Reqd area} = \frac{1}{2}(30+10) \times 25 + 10 \times [100 - 25 - 15] + \frac{1}{2} \times 10 \times 15$$

$$= 500 + 600 + 75 = 1175\text{ cm}^2$$

$$6 \text{ (c) } AB = BC = CA = 1 \quad [\text{A and B are centres of two circles}]$$

ΔABC is an equilateral Δ



$$\text{each angle} = 60^\circ \quad \text{Area of } \Delta ABC = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4} \times 1^2 = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}$$

$$\text{In circle I area of sector } AB \times C = \frac{60}{360} \times \pi \times 1^2 = \frac{\pi}{6}$$

$$\text{In circle II area of sector } ABCY = \frac{60}{360} \times \pi (1)^2 = \frac{\pi}{6}$$

$$\text{Reqd area} = 2 \left[\frac{\pi}{6} + \frac{\pi}{6} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4} \right] = \frac{4\pi - 3\sqrt{3}}{6}$$

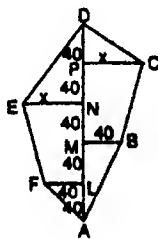
$$7 \text{ (c) Reqd area of field}$$

$$- \frac{1}{2} \times 40 \times 40 + \frac{1}{2} \times (40+x)(40+40)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} (40+40) \times x + \frac{1}{2} \times 40 \times x$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} (40+x)(40+40)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} (40+40) \times 40 = 11200$$



On solving we get $x = 40$

$$8 \text{ (a) Reqd area} = 5 \times 1 + 7 \times 1 = 12\text{m}^2$$

$$9 \text{ (c) Area of a square} = a^2$$

$$= 2[4h \times 2h + 2h \times h + h \times 4h] = 28h \quad a = 2\sqrt{7}h$$

$$[\text{S.A. of a cuboid} = 2(lb + bh + hl)]$$

$$10 \text{ (d) S.A. of a cube } 6l^2, \text{ Increased side} = \frac{3}{2}l$$

$$\text{New S.A. of a cube} = 6 \left(\frac{3}{2}l \right)^2 = 6l^2 \times \frac{9}{4}$$

$$\text{Increase in S.A.} = 6l^2 \left(\frac{9}{4} - 1 \right) = 6l^2 \times \frac{5}{4}$$

$$\% \text{age increase} = \frac{6l^2}{6l^2} \times \frac{5}{4} \times 100 = 125\%$$

$$11 \text{ (d) Vol of a hall} = l \times b \times h = 50 \times 25 \times 9\text{ m}^3$$

$$\text{No of persons} = \frac{50 \times 25 \times 9}{150} = 75$$

$$12 \text{ (c) S.A. of tank} = lb + 2(hl + bh)$$

$$= 15 \times 10 + 2(6 \times 15 + 10 \times 6) = 450\text{ m}^2$$

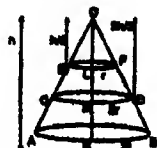
$$\text{Length of sheet} = \frac{\text{Area}}{\text{Width}} = \frac{450}{2} = 225\text{ m}$$

$$\text{Total cost of sheet} = 225 \times 5 = \text{Rs } 1125$$

$$13 \text{ (d) } \Delta OLF \sim \Delta OMD$$

$$\therefore \frac{OL}{OM} = \frac{LF}{MD} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} = \frac{r}{MD}$$

$$\therefore MD = 2r \quad \text{Sly NB} = 3r$$



$$V_1 = \text{Vol of cone} = \text{OEF} = \frac{1}{3} \pi r^2 \frac{h}{3} = \frac{1}{9} (\pi r^2 h)$$

$$\text{Vol. of ECDF} = V_2 = \frac{1}{3} \pi (2r)^2 \frac{2h}{3} - \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{1}{3} \pi r^2 h \right) = \frac{7}{9} (\pi r^2 h)$$

$$\text{Vol of CABD} = V_3 = \frac{1}{3} \pi (3r)^2 \times h - \frac{1}{3} \pi (2r)^2 \times \frac{2h}{3} = \frac{19}{9} (\pi r^2 h)$$

$$V_1 \quad V_2 \quad V_3 = \frac{1}{9} \pi r^2 h \quad \frac{7}{9} \pi r^2 h \quad \frac{19}{9} \pi r^2 h = 1 \quad 7 \quad 19$$

$$14 \text{ (a) } \frac{V_1}{V_2} = \frac{\frac{1}{3} \pi (4x)^2 \times 3y}{\frac{1}{3} \pi (3x)^2 \times 4y} = \frac{4}{3}$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{ll} r_1 & r_2 = 4 \quad 3, r_1 = 4x, r_2 = 3x \\ h_1 & h_2, h_1 = 3y, h_2 = 4y \end{array} \right]$$

$$15 \text{ (c) Vol of conical vessel} = \frac{1}{3} \pi \left(\frac{40}{2} \right)^2 \times 24\text{ cm}^3$$

Vol of water flowing in 1 minute

$$= \pi \left(\frac{5}{2 \times 10} \right)^2 \times (10 \times 100)\text{ cm}^3$$

$$\text{Reqd time} = \frac{\frac{1}{3} \pi \left(\frac{40}{2} \right)^2 \times 24}{\pi \left(\frac{5}{20} \right)^2 \times 1000} = \frac{512}{10} = 51\text{ min } 12\text{ secs}$$

$$16 \text{ (c) } V = \frac{1}{3} \pi r^2 h = \frac{1}{3} \pi (6)^2 \times 10 = 120 \pi\text{ cm}^3$$

$$17 \text{ (b) } \frac{V_1}{V_2} = \frac{\pi r_1^2 h_1}{\pi r_2^2 h_2} = \left(\frac{r_1}{r_2} \right)^2 \times \frac{h_1}{h_2} = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \right)^2 \times \frac{2}{3} = \frac{2}{9} = 2 \quad 9$$

$$18 \text{ (b) Vol of cone} = \text{Vol of sphere}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{3} \pi (4)^2 h = \frac{4}{3} \pi (4)^3 \Rightarrow h = 16\text{ cm}$$

$$19 \text{ (a) No of balls} = \frac{\text{Vol of solid sphere}}{\text{Vol of 1 ball}}$$

$$= \frac{\frac{4}{3} \pi (4)^3}{\frac{4}{3} \pi (1)^3} = 64$$

$$20 \text{ (c) No of balls} = \frac{\text{Vol of cylindrical rod}}{\text{Vol of 1 spherical ball}}$$

$$= \frac{\pi r^2 \times 8r}{\frac{4}{3} \pi r^3} = 6$$

$$21 \text{ (b) } \sin 37^\circ 27' = \sin (37^\circ 24' + 3') = 6074 + 0007 = 6081$$

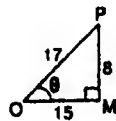
$$22 \text{ (a) } 4 \times \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^2 = \frac{13}{6}$$

$$23 \text{ (a) } \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2} = 0$$

$$24 \text{ (d)} \quad \frac{(\sqrt{3})^2 - 2(1)^2 + (\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}})^2}{3(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}})^2 \times 1 + (\frac{1}{2})^2 \times 1^3} = \frac{\frac{7}{3}}{\frac{7}{3}} = \frac{4}{3}$$

$$25 \text{ (d)} \quad \sin \theta = \frac{8}{17} \quad OM = \sqrt{17^2 - 8^2} = 15$$

$$\tan \theta + \sec \theta = \frac{8}{15} + \frac{17}{15} = \frac{25}{15} = \frac{5}{3}$$



$$26 \text{ (c)} \quad \sin 30^\circ + \cos 60^\circ = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1 \text{ is correct}$$

$$27 \text{ (c)} \quad (\sin \theta + \cos \theta)(1 - \sin \theta \cos \theta) \\ = (\sin \theta + \cos \theta)(\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta - \sin \theta \cos \theta) \\ = \sin^3 \theta + \cos^3 \theta \quad (\text{as } \sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta = 1)$$

$$28 \text{ (c)} \quad \frac{\tan \theta}{(1 + \tan^2 \theta)^2} + \frac{\cot \theta}{(1 + \cot^2 \theta)^2} \\ = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta (\sec^2 \theta)^2} + \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta (\operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta)^2} \\ = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} \times \cos^4 \theta + \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} \times \sin^4 \theta \\ = \sin \theta \cos \theta (\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) \\ = \sin \theta \cos \theta \times 1 = \sin \theta \cos \theta$$

$$\begin{aligned} 1 + \tan^2 \theta &= \sec^2 \theta \\ 1 + \cot^2 \theta &= \operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta \\ \sec \theta &= \frac{1}{\cos \theta} \quad \tan \theta = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} \\ \operatorname{cosec} \theta &= \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \quad \cot \theta = \frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} \end{aligned}$$

$$29 \text{ (b)} \quad \frac{\tan \theta}{\sec \theta - 1} + \frac{\tan \theta}{\sec \theta + 1} \\ = \frac{\tan \theta \sec \theta + \tan \theta + \tan \theta \sec \theta - \tan \theta}{\sec^2 \theta - 1} \\ = \frac{2 \tan \theta \sec \theta}{\sin^2 \theta} \quad [\sec^2 \theta - 1 = \tan^2 \theta]$$

$$= \frac{2 \sec \theta}{\tan \theta} = \frac{2 \times 1}{\cos \theta} \times \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} = \frac{2}{\sin \theta} = 2 \operatorname{cosec} \theta$$

$$30 \text{ (b)} \quad \left(\frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} + \frac{1}{\cos \theta} \right)^2 = \left(\frac{\sin \theta + 1}{\cos \theta} \right)^2 \\ = \frac{(1 + \sin \theta)^2}{\cos^2 \theta} = \frac{(1 + \sin \theta)^2}{1 - \sin^2 \theta} \\ = \frac{(1 + \sin \theta)(1 + \sin \theta)}{(1 - \sin \theta)(1 + \sin \theta)} = \frac{1 + \sin \theta}{1 - \sin \theta}$$

$$31 \text{ (d)} \quad \sec^2 \theta + \operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta = \frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta} + \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} = \frac{\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta}{\cos^2 \theta \sin^2 \theta} \\ = \frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta \sin^2 \theta} = \frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta} \cdot \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} = \sec^2 \theta \operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta \\ [\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta = 1] \\ \frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta} = \sec^2 \theta, \quad \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} = \operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta$$

$$32 \text{ (d)} \quad \text{Given exp} = 3[\sin^4 x - 4 \sin^3 x \cos x + 6 \sin^2 x \cos^2 x - 4 \sin x \cos^3 x + \cos^4 x] \\ + 6[\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x + 2 \sin x \cos x] \\ + 4(\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x)(\sin^4 x + \cos^4 x - \sin^2 x \cos^2 x) \\ = 7 \sin^4 x + 7 \cos^4 x + 14 \sin^2 x \cos^2 x$$

$$+ 6(\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x) \\ = 7(\sin^4 x + \cos^4 x + 2 \sin^2 x \cos^2 x) + 6 \times 1 \\ - 7(\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x)^2 + 6 = 7 \times 1^2 + 6 = 13 \\ [a^3 + b^3 = (a+b)(a^2 + b^2 - ab)] \\ \sin^6 x + \cos^6 x \\ = (\sin^2 x)^3 + (\cos^2 x)^3 \\ = (\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x)(\sin^4 x + \cos^4 x - \sin^2 x \cos^2 x)$$

$$33 \text{ (c)} \quad (m^2 - n^2) \sin^2 \beta \\ - (m+n)(m-n) \sin^2 \beta \\ = \left(\frac{\sin \alpha}{\sin \beta} + \frac{\cos \alpha}{\cos \beta} \right) \left(\frac{\sin \alpha}{\sin \beta} - \frac{\cos \alpha}{\cos \beta} \right) \sin^2 \beta \\ = \left(\frac{\sin \alpha \cos \beta + \cos \alpha \sin \beta}{\sin \beta \cos \beta} \right) \left(\frac{\sin \alpha \cos \beta - \cos \alpha \sin \beta}{\sin \beta \cos \beta} \right) \sin^2 \beta \\ = \frac{\sin(\alpha + \beta) \sin(\alpha - \beta)}{\sin^2 \beta \cos^2 \beta} \times \sin^2 \beta \\ = \frac{\sin^2 \alpha - \sin^2 \beta}{\cos^2 \beta} = \frac{(1 - \cos^2 \alpha) - (1 - \cos^2 \beta)}{\cos^2 \beta} \\ = \frac{\cos^2 \beta - \cos^2 \alpha}{\cos^2 \beta} = \frac{\cos^2 \beta}{\cos^2 \beta} - \frac{\cos^2 \alpha}{\cos^2 \beta} = 1 - \frac{\cos^2 \alpha}{\cos^2 \beta} \\ [\sin A \cos B + \cos A \sin B = \sin(A+B)] \\ [\sin A \cos B - \cos A \sin B = \sin(A-B)] \\ [\sin(A-B) \sin(A+B) = \sin^2 A \sin^2 B] \\ \sin^2 A - \sin^2 B = \sin^2 A \sin^2 B$$

34 (b) Let the height of tower AB be h m

$$AI = h - 32$$

$$\text{Let } BD = CE = x$$

In rt $\triangle AEC$

$$\frac{AI}{CE} = \tan 45^\circ \Rightarrow \frac{h - 32}{x} = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow x = h - 32$$

$$\text{In rt } \triangle CDB, \frac{x}{32} = \cot 30^\circ = \sqrt{3} \Rightarrow x = 32\sqrt{3}$$

$$h - 32 = 32\sqrt{3} \Rightarrow h = 32\sqrt{3} + 32 = 32(\sqrt{3} + 1)$$

35 (d) Let the height of an object be AI = h

$$AE = h - 200, EB = h + 200$$

B is the image of A

$$\text{Let } CE = x$$

$$\frac{h - 200}{x} = \tan 30^\circ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \sqrt{3}(h - 200) \quad (i)$$

$$\frac{h + 200}{x} = \tan 45^\circ = 1 \Rightarrow x = h + 200 \quad (ii)$$

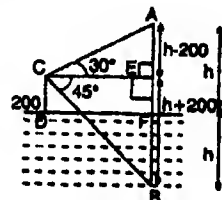
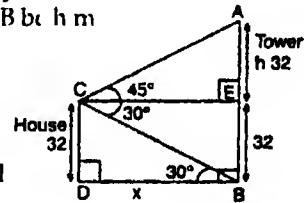
Solving (i)

and (ii)

$$\sqrt{3}(h - 200) = h + 200$$

$$\Rightarrow 3h - h = 200\sqrt{3} + 200 \Rightarrow h(\sqrt{3} - 1) = 200(\sqrt{3} + 1)$$

$$\Rightarrow h = \frac{200(\sqrt{3} + 1)}{\sqrt{3} - 1}$$



[illegible]

We all like to blame the system but that is only part of the story. The students are to blame too. For example, the schools and colleges where I studied had excellent libraries but few students ever used them. We had dedicated teachers but many of us bunked classes. So it is wrong to blame the system when we ourselves take things casually. The need of the hour is for the students to make best use of what is available instead of talking about changing systems. First let us change our way of thinking and our cynical approach and then let us proceed to change the system.



Education is the life of many people including myself. My teachers have been very helpful in shaping my character and outlook. Ultimately, the quality of education depends on the kind of teachers that one gets and how much we are able to take out from them.



The education system has not been able to inspire students to use their creativity. It places more emphasis on learning, not on thinking. We are teaching the same things for years without realising their utility. Obsolete courses must be weeded out and more job oriented courses must be introduced. Administrators should be strict so that politics can be kept out of campuses.



What we require is a hands on inquiry based approach to learning, where children have something to do and something to think about, where both physical activity and critical thinking merge. The child should be encouraged to think independently. My aim is to start a weekend school for children and put an end to the complaint that learning is boring and school has stopped being fun.

Pradesh.

I think that tuitions should be banned Teachers in colleges should be required to complete the studies so that tuitions are just not required Those who force students to join their private classes should be suspended It is high time that we stopped education becoming a business



In school I used to be harassed by the school bully, a problem I was able to solve by being brave. But in college I was harassed by teachers themselves. For not taking tuitions from them they gave me extremely low marks. This was the worst form

of commercialisation of education. My three years in college changed my view of the educationists. One can only ask them to heal themselves first before trying to preach to others.



D. Balaji lives in Pondicherry and is a student of B.Sc. in Mathematics.

The greatest defect of our education system is that it is excessively passive. Students do not play an active part in gaining knowledge but are made to mug up facts only to reproduce them in the examination hall. That is why a student attaining high marks in academics fails in life. The present system of examinations has ceased to be a reliable test of a student's ability.



Sapna Sethi is a lecturer in English in Banga in Punjab.

Following the footsteps of my ideal teacher, I strive to make my lectures varied and educative. I wish to give my students the experience of learning beyond the essential. I want to encourage them so that they may realise that study is not drudgery. It is a fulfilling task, which makes one grow mature and change for the better.



Nidhi Sharma studies in Class 12 in Chandigarh.

The ultimate aim of the average student is to score well in exams and simply get a degree.

Nobody cares about the methods used to achieve this goal—whether they are cramming, cheating or leaking papers. Students do not go to school to learn something—the studious go to get more marks while others go to meet friends and freak out. There is very little hope of anything positive because the leaders are busy making money for themselves. All that they have done is to perpetuate the pernicious system of reservation and lowered the standards in education.



Piyush Bajpai is doing his engineering in electronics and communication in Gangtok in Sikkim.

Our education continues to be dominated by the thinking imposed on us during the colonial regime. It places emphasis on formal schools, neglecting both non-formal and recurrent education. It, thus, maintains double standards. Only a small minority of people have access to good institutions. I think vocationalisation should be given top priority and this alone can train middle-level skilled manpower. A change in the curriculum of primary and secondary education is the demand of the time.



Swati Sethi is doing her B.A. at Maharani College, Jaipur.

The slogan of students all over India is "Dilli Chalo", because only the Delhi colleges are ranked high on the list of reputed colleges. There are some institutes which are considered 'hep' but others are considered 'HMTs'. The courses and methods at these colleges have little practical value and are quite useless. It is said that today's youth

are tomorrow's future but with an education system which provides little in terms of a strong foundation, the future may well be bleak.



Jagmohan Datt is an engineer. He lives in Panchkula in Haryana and is preparing for the Civil Services.

Education has become a business. If you cannot succeed in spite of tuitions, you can get into a professional college by paying capitation fees. The soul and ethics are absent in today's education. The main purpose and aim has drowned in the pool of selfishness. Are there any educationists who are aware of their duties and see the rot all around? Can they not change the system and introduce some values in it?



Sanchita Choudhury is a graduate who lives in Barrackpore in West Bengal.

India has pioneered a unique educational system in the past, but all that is lost today. Now it is just a business. Cordial relations and love between students and the teachers is hardly in evidence these days. College lecturers use the time in college to take a nap so that they can take tuitions in the evenings at their homes. When I had to appear in practical examinations, I had to surrender hopelessly before them. I long for the old system when teaching was done for the love of it and not for the profit.



Shalini Agarwal is doing her textile engineering in Kanpur.

Nobody is interested in studies these days, be it a student or a teacher. Students are interested in cramming answers to get through, while teachers are interested in private coaching. Privatisation is the solution to improve the education scenario, but then it will be affordable only for the rich. Hence, we should try to improve government institutes. For this, sincerity is required which, unfortunately, is absent from our officers and leaders.



Rajib Bhattacharjee lives in Nadia, West Bengal. He is doing his B.A. from Kaliyani University.

We enter school with great spirit and curiosity but end up with great frustration, contempt and even fear of learning. Most of us take the wrong stream without realising our true talent. We spend our lives mugging dry facts which we will hardly use in our lives after we graduate. It is, indeed, a sorry state for the young people.



Abhinav Sharma is doing his Masters in Public Administration from Lucknow University.

There is a silver lining because a number of new courses have started which have made universities redundant. The youth have a choice today and may not blindly do graduation, which is utterly useless. As new technology gives rise to new careers, youth will turn away from politicised and degenerated universities and start taking up emerging careers.



TEST OF REASONING—1

Find the odd-man out:

- | | | |
|------------|----------|----------|
| 1 (a) IJGN | (b) ECAG | (c) NLJP |
| (d) USQW | (e) TRPV | |
| 2 (a) KIC | (b) TSP | (c) ZYV |
| (d) QPI | (e) IIB | |
| 3 (a) MNPS | (b) IGLI | (c) XYAD |
| (d) OPSV | (e) HIKN | |
| 4 (a) VUIT | (b) QPJK | (c) TSHI |
| (d) YXBC | (e) POKI | |
| 5 (a) HC11 | (b) TR38 | (c) QF22 |
| (d) VC25 | (e) MJ24 | |
| 6 (a) ZL21 | (b) TG24 | (c) NL2 |
| (d) RB16 | (e) JC7 | |

Find out the missing number:

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 7 3, 6, 12, 24, | (a) 36 | (b) 40 | (c) 48 | (d) 56 |
| | (e) None of these | | | |
| 8 6, 13, 7, 16, 9, , 13 | (a) 22 | (b) 18 | (c) 20 | (d) 23 |
| | (e) None of these | | | |
| 9 1, 8, 9, 27, 16, | (a) 32 | (b) 24 | (c) 48 | (d) 64 |
| | (e) None of these | | | |
| 10 14, 16, 21, 24, 28, | (a) 28 | (b) 30 | (c) 32 | (d) 36 |
| | (e) None of these | | | |
| 11 4, 5, , 10, 18, 27, 54 | (a) 9 | (b) 8 | (c) 7 | (d) 6 |
| | (e) None of these | | | |
| 12 6, 9, 15, 24, | (a) 28 | (b) 29 | (c) 36 | (d) 42 |
| | (e) None of these | | | |
| 13 2, 3, 6, 9, 18, 27, | (a) 36 | (b) 54 | (c) 39 | (d) 42 |
| | (e) None of these | | | |
| 14 4, 8, 5, 10, 6, | (a) 8 | (b) 9 | (c) 10 | (d) 12 |

(e) None of these

Which number is different from others?

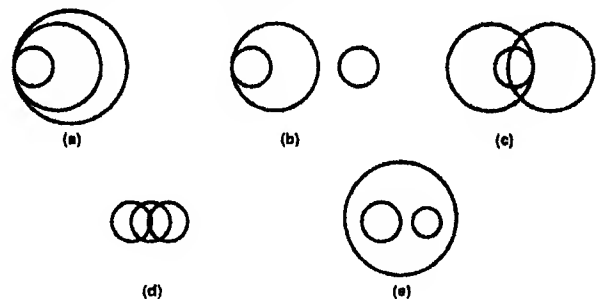
- | | | | | |
|------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| 15 (a) 125 | (b) 144 | (c) 64 | (d) 1 | (e) 8 |
| 16 (a) 31 | (b) 37 | (c) 39 | (d) 41 | (e) 43 |
| 17 (a) 82 | (b) 24 | (c) 44 | (d) 12 | (e) 52 |
| 18 (a) 64 | (b) 49 | (c) 81 | (d) 4 | (e) 27 |
| 19 (a) 49 | (b) 36 | (c) 18 | (d) 9 | (e) 39 |

In each question below is given a key word followed by five other words. Four out of the five words are related to the key word in the same way while one is different. Your task is to find this odd-man out:

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| 20 MANUFACTURE | (a) NATURAL | (b) TRACT | (c) FRAME |
| | (d) FRACTURE | (e) MANURE | |
| 21 LIGAMENT | (a) CEMENT | (b) TRAIN | (c) GARMENT |
| | (d) CLAIM | (e) MARGIN | |
| 22 STIMULANT | (a) STAFF | (b) MAIL | (c) LATE |
| | (d) STAFF | (e) MULE | |

In each question below are given three items. On the basis of relationship among the items, select from (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) the figure that represents the relationship among items of the question

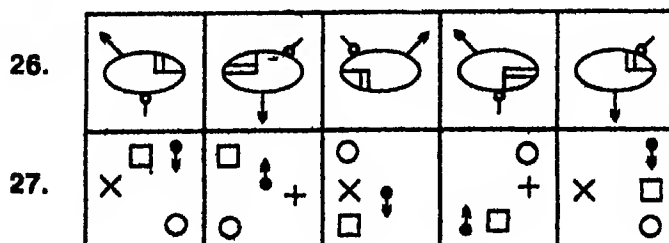
- | |
|------------------------|
| 23 sheep cattle lamp |
| 24 teacher men women |
| 25 fish shark tortoise |



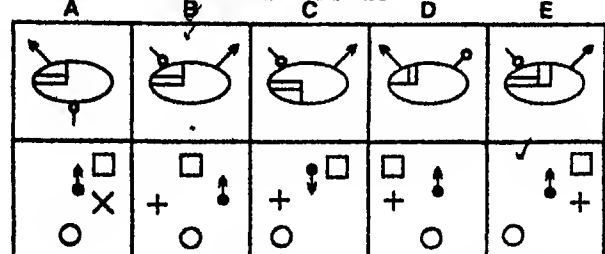
NON-VERBAL SERIES

Given below are two sets of figures, the Problem Figures and the Answer Figures marked A, B, C, D and E. You have to find out which figure from the Answer Figures would come next in the set of Problem Figures.

PROBLEM FIGURES



ANSWER FIGURES



28.



29.



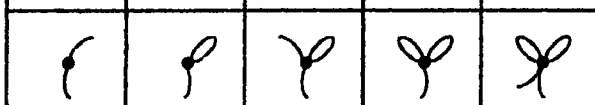
30.



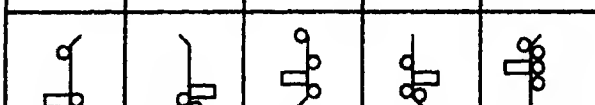
31.



32.



33.



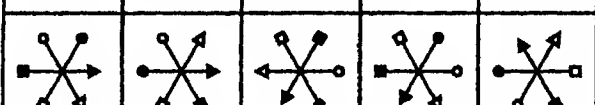
34.



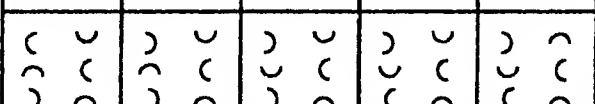
35.



36.



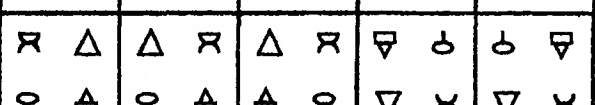
37.



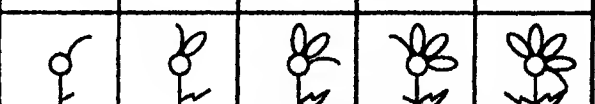
38.



39.



40.



41.



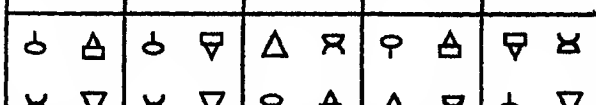
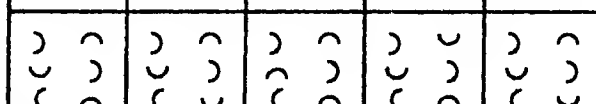
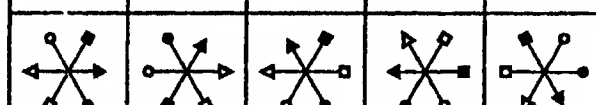
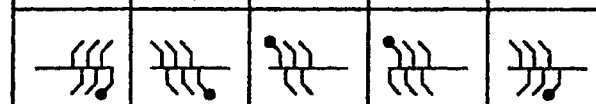
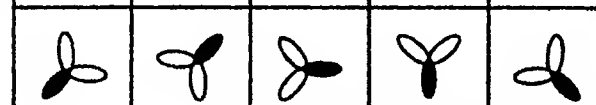
A

B

C

D

E



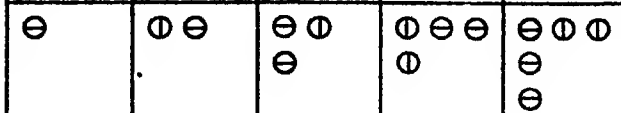
42.



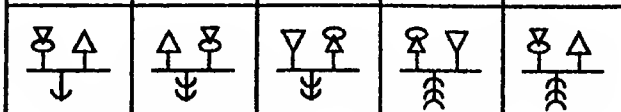
43.



44.



45.



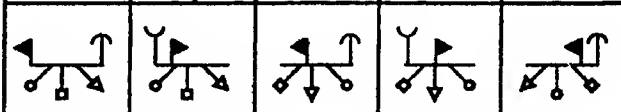
46.



47.



48.



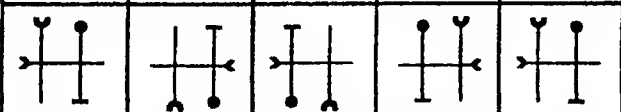
49.



50.



51.



52.



53.



54.



55.



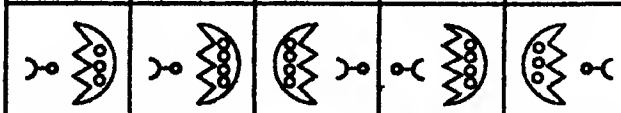
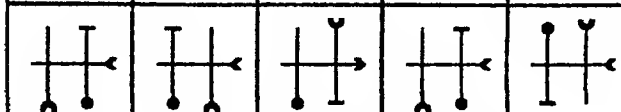
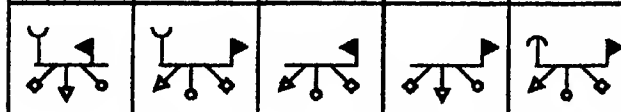
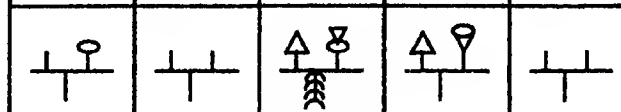
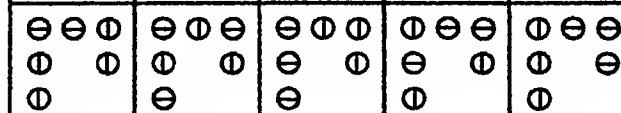
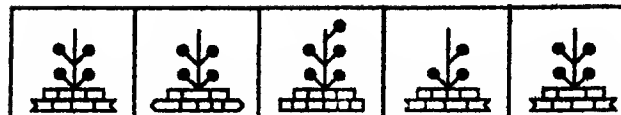
A

B

C

D

E



Find the odd-man out:

	A	B	C	D	E
56.					
57.					
58.					
59.					
60.					
61.					
62.					
63.					
64.					
65.					

Match the figures that would fit into each other.

66.		A	
67.		B	
68.		C	
69.		D	

In questions 70 to 75, Problem Figures I and II have a definite relationship. You have to find out which of the Answer Figures from A, B, C, D and E have an identical relationship with Figure III?

	PROBLEM FIGURES				ANSWER FIGURES				
	I	II	III	IV	A	B	C	D	E
70.				?					
71.				?					

	I	II	III	IV	A	B	C	D	E	
72.				?						
73.				?						
74.				?						
75.				?						

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

For answering questions 1-6, write all the alphabets in a circle and number them from 1 to 26.

- (a) 2. (d) 3. (d) 4. (c)
- (c) Add the values of the letters.
- (b) Subtract the lower value from the higher one.
- (c) Each number is double of its preceding number.
- (a) Each alternate number is the total of numbers on its right and left.
- (d) The series is, $2^2; 2^3; 3^2; 3^3; 4^2; 4^3$.
- (c) There are two series, 14, 21, 28... and 16, 24, 32...
- (d) Go on adding $1^2; 1^3; 2^2; 2^3; 3^2...$ to numbers.
- (c) Ought to be 39. Each number is the total of its two preceding numbers.
- (b) The numbers are $1\frac{1}{2}$ and double of the preceding number by turns.
- (d) Again there are two series, 4, 5, 6... and 8, 10, 12.
- (b) All the other numbers are cubes of certain numbers.
- (c) All the other numbers cannot be divided by other numbers hence they are prime numbers.
- (a) All the others are divisible by 4.
- (c) All the other numbers are squares of certain numbers.
- (a) All the others are divisible by 3.
- (d) In all the others, all the letters have been taken from the key word. This one has an extra 'R'.
- (a) All the others have one letter that is not in the key word. This one has a 'C' and an 'E' extra.
- (d) In all the others, the letters picked up from the key word do not change order, while here A comes before L.
- (c) 24. (d) 25. (b)

For solving the next type of questions, keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Study each figure given in a question separately, as well as in context and relationship with the other figures.
- All the figures needn't move in the same direction or at the same pace. Some figures in the question may move

clockwise, some anti-clockwise; or the movement may be from corner to corner, right and left, up and down or vice-versa or along definite points. The figures may remain as such during the movement or may rotate, tilt, turn upside down or change their shape and size. (e.g. Qs. 27, 28, 29, 34, 39, 41, 50, 53 etc.)

- Something may be added or dropped from the figure as it moves ahead. (e.g. Qs. 31, 32, 33, 40, 44, 46 etc.)
- The figures may interchange positions or one part may change its direction by turns. It is not necessary for all the figures to interchange position with each step. Some may interchange in one step, some in the other. (e.g. Qs. 35, 36, 37, 38, 51, 53 etc.)

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. B | 27. E | 28. A | 29. C | 30. C |
| 31. B | 32. B | 33. D | 34. E | 35. A |
| 36. C | 37. A | 38. D | 39. B | 40. B |
| 41. D | 42. A | 43. C | 44. E | 45. C |
| 46. B | 47. D | 48. B | 49. E | 50. B |
| 51. A | 52. E | 53. C | 54. C | 55. B |

- B. The pattern is wrong.
- D. The number of petals ought to match with the number of arcs in the opposite corner.
- D. In all the others the leaves are one less in number than the petals.
- E. In all the others, there are two arcs and three straight lines, here the arrangement is reversed.
- C. The number of lines in the inner figure is one more than the outer figure.
- B. The pattern is wrong.
- D. The number of lines in the two figures ought to be the same.
- E. All the others have tails.
- A. One of the three figures ought to tilt sideways; in this case, it does not.
- C. Two lines should have 2 dots and 1 cross while the remaining two, 1 dot and 2 crosses. In this case it is not so.

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 66. C | 67. D | 68. B | 69. A | 70. C |
| 71. E | 72. E | 73. B | 74. A | 75. D |

TEST OF REASONING—II

Find the odd-man out:

1. (a) knowledge (b) writer (c) listen
(d) philosophy (e) psychology
2. (a) hate (b) flatter (c) love
(d) adore (e) appreciate
3. (a) dolphin (b) walrus (c) seal
(d) octopus (e) hyena
4. (a) humerus (b) biceps (c) pelvis
(d) fibula (e) rib
5. (a) inch (b) mile (c) centimetre
(d) hectare (e) yard
6. (a) cucumber (b) pear (c) plum
(d) strawberry (e) fig
7. (a) Kanpur (b) Varanasi (c) Agra
(d) Allahabad (e) Haridwar
8. (a) iris (b) pupil (c) vertebra
(d) retina (e) cornea

In each question below are given two items that have a definite relationship between them. Your task is to find out from (a), (b), (c) and (d), the pair of items with an identical relationship

9. tongue : teeth
(a) eye : eye-brow (b) heart : ribs
(c) nail : fingers (d) cheek : jaw
10. Neptune : Pluto
(a) Darwin : evolution (b) Shakespeare : drama
(c) piano : harmonium (d) fish : whale
11. pen : peck
(a) dog : worry (b) snake : hiss
(c) cat : spring (d) donkey : bray
12. spade : dig
(a) pen : hand-writing (b) tongue : talk
(c) book : letters (d) teacher : knowledge
13. sea : lake
(a) river : drainage (b) man : ape
(c) heart : blood (d) mountain : stone
14. immense : sufficient
(a) merge : combination (b) plural : singular
(c) thought : memory (d) friendship : acquaintance
15. profit : loss
(a) dull : bright (b) few : scanty
(c) serve : king (d) ignorance : foolishness
16. merit : promotion
(a) corruption : inquiry (b) success : achievement
(c) performance : selection (d) speech : pronunciation

Match the following questions with (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) on the basis of similar relationship among the three given items. The order of items need not be the same.

17. rose : lily : daffodils
(a) buildings : statues : stone
18. music : painting : art
(b) boys : girls : dancer
19. cloth : curtain : garment
(c) acupuncture : homoeopathy : Ayurved
20. doctor : men : women
(d) cloudy : sunny : days

21. cat : black : white

(e) hammer : tool : tongs

In questions 22 to 26, the words PAYMENT and TUESDAY are coded in five different ways. Your task is to match the questions with (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) on the basis of similar codes.

PAYMENT	TUESDAY
22 NYWKCLR	(a) EUTSYAD
23 QZZLFMU	(b) RSCQBYW
24 QCBQJTA	(c) UTSEYAD
25 YAPMTNE	(d) UWHWIGF
26 APMYTNE	(e) UTFREZZ

27. If, according to a code, 'MERCY' is 12345 and 'CRIME' is 43612, then 'RHYMI' in that code would be.

- (a) 37612 (b) 35721 (c) 37412
(d) 37512 (e) can't say

If the first eight letters of the alphabets were written in reverse order followed by the next ten letters of the alphabets in reverse order and finally, the last eight letters in the reverse order:

Alphabets ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

28. Which letter would be exactly in the middle of B and N?

- (a) P (b) L (c) Q (d) J
(e) None of these

29. The letter 'I' would be between?

- (a) J and Z (b) H and J (c) A and H
(d) K and Z (e) None of these

30. If you count from your left, which position would the letter P occupy?

- (a) 14th (b) 11th (c) 15th (d) 9th
(e) None of these

Two brothers A and B start from their home at 9 A.M. to go to their school and college respectively. A has a bicycle, which he rides at a speed of 12 km per hour while B goes on his MOPED at a speed of 20 km. per hour. A goes 2 km. West, turns left and goes 1 km., again turns left, goes 1 km., then turn right and goes 1 km. and finally turns left and after going 1 km. reaches his school. B goes 1 km. East, turns right and goes 1 km., again turns right and goes 3 km. and finally turns left and after going for 1 km. reaches his college.

31. How far is A's school from his home as the crow flies?

- (a) 1 km (b) 3 km (c) 2 km (d) 5 km
(e) None of these

32. Did the brothers cross each other on the way? If yes, at what time?

- (a) 9.12 A.M. (b) 9.18 A.M. (c) 9.15 A.M.
(d) 9.20 A.M. (e) They did not cross each other.

33. How far is A's school from B's college?

- (a) 1 km (b) 2 km (c) 3 km (d) 4 km
(e) None of these

34. If B's class started at 9.20 A.M. how much early or late he was for his class?

- (a) late 2 min (b) early 2 min
(c) exactly at 9.20 (d) late 4 min
(e) late 6 min

A person had Rs 710 in denominations of hundred rupee, fifty rupee and ten rupee notes. The total number of notes was 16.

35. How many ten rupee notes had he?

- (a) 2 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) 6 (e) Can't say

36. How many hundred rupee notes had he?

- (a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4 (e) None of these

Among A, B, C and D:

B is heavier than A and C but C is taller than him.

D is not as tall as C while A is the shortest.

C is not as heavy as A is.

D is heavier than B but shorter than him.

37. Who is the heaviest?

- (a) A (b) B (c) C (d) D
(e) Can't be established

38. Which of the following statement is wrong?

- (a) C is taller than A.
(b) B is heavier than C but not as heavy as D.
(c) C is the tallest and the lightest.
(d) C is shorter than D.
(e) D is the heaviest but not the tallest.

Wooden blocks of six colours green, red, pink, yellow, white and blue are placed one over the other like a pillar.

- (i) Yellow is between white and blue.
(ii) Green is just below red.
(iii) Pink and blue have two blocks between them.
(iv) Yellow and green have one block between them.
(v) Pink is neither at the top nor near blue.

39. Which block is at the top?

- (a) blue (b) green (c) white
(d) yellow (e) red

40. Which statement is superfluous?

- (a) (i) (b) (ii) (c) (iii) (d) (iv) (e) (v)

SYLLOGISMS

In each question below are given two statements followed by four conclusions, numbered I, II, III and IV. You have to take the two given statements to be true even if they seem at variance with commonly known facts. Read all the conclusions and then decide which of the given conclusions logically follow from the two given statements, disregarding commonly known facts.

Statements:

41. 1. All pencils are trees.
2. All chairs are trees.

Conclusions:

- I. Every tree is either pencil or chair.
II. Some trees are neither pencil nor chair.
III. Some trees are pencils as well as chairs.
IV. No tree is pencil as well as chair.

- (a) Only I and II follow. (b) Only III and IV follow.
(c) Either II or III follows. (d) Only IV follows.
(e) Any one of the four follows.

Statements:

42. 1. All books are dictionaries.
2. All dictionaries are novels.

Conclusions:

- I. All books are novels.
II. All dictionaries are books.
III. All novels are dictionaries.
IV. The novels that are dictionaries are not books.

- (a) Only I follows. (b) Only II follows.
(c) Only III follows. (d) Only IV follows.
(e) None follows.

Statements:

43. 1. Copper is heavier than gold but lighter than silver.
2. Brass is lighter than silver but heavier than gold.

Conclusions:

- I. Gold is the lightest among the four.
II. Brass is heavier than copper.
III. Silver is the heaviest.
IV. Copper is heavier than brass.

- (a) Only I follows. (b) Only I and II follow.
(c) Only I and III follow. (d) Either III or IV follows.
(e) Only II and IV follow.

Statements:

44. 1. Some birds are hawks.
2. All hawks are crows.

Conclusions:

- I. All crows are hawks.
II. Some crows are birds.
III. Some hawks are not birds.
IV. The crows that are hawks are not birds.

- (a) Only I and II follow. (b) Only III and IV follow.
(c) Only II follows. (d) Only III follows.
(e) Only IV follows.

Statements:

45. 1. Some cats are dogs.
2. Some snakes are dogs.

Conclusions:

- I. All dogs are cats.
II. Some dogs are cats as well as snakes.
III. Every dog is either a cat or a snake.
IV. No dog is cat as well as snake.

- (a) Either I or II follows. (b) Either II or IV follows.
(c) Only IV follows. (d) Only I follows.
(e) None follows.

Statements:

46. 1. All chairs are doors.
2. Some doors are windows.

Conclusions:

- I. Some windows are chairs.
II. All doors are chairs.
III. Some chairs are not doors.
IV. Windows that are doors are chairs too.

- (a) Only I follows. (b) Only II follows.
(c) Only III follows. (d) Only IV follows.
(e) None follows.

Statements:

47. 1. Some buildings are palaces.
2. All buildings are white.

Conclusions:

- I. Some palaces are white.
II. Some palaces are black.
III. Some buildings are not palaces.
IV. The buildings that are not palaces are not white.

- (a) Only I and II follow. (b) Only I and III follow.
(c) Either II or III follows. (d) Only IV follows.
(e) None follows.

Statements:

48. 1. Some rocks are mountains.
2. Some mountains are forests.

Conclusions:

- I. Some rocks are forests.
II. Some mountains are not rocks.
III. Some forests are not mountains.

IV No forest is a rock

- (i) Only I and II follow (ii) Only III and IV follow
(c) Any one of the four follows
(d) Either I or IV follows (e) All the four follow

In each question below is given a statement followed by three assumptions, numbered I, II and III. An assumption is something supposed or taken for granted. You have to consider the statement and the assumptions and then decide which of the assumptions is implicit in the statement. Then decide which of the answers is correct.

Question

49 Although not a single case of cholera has been reported from district X, a team of doctors has been rushed there.

Assumptions

- I The doctors believe in prevention better than cure.
II Cases of cholera have been reported from neighbouring districts hence district X is considered rather uncritical.
III Doctors go to the district off and on.
(a) Only I is implicit (b) Only I and II are implicit
(c) Only II is implicit (d) Only III is implicit
(e) All are implicit

Statement

50 India is going to host a unique exhibition on the water industry, Water Asia '97.

Assumptions

- I Only Asian countries will participate in the exhibition.
II The exhibition will highlight all the issues connected with water.
III No other country in the world has organized such an exhibition before.
(a) Only I and II are implicit
(b) Either II or III is implicit
(c) Only III is implicit (d) None is implicit
(e) All are implicit

Statement

51 Air crashes hardly leave any survivors.

Assumptions

- I Aeroplanes are not well designed, hence they often crash.
II In other accidents, people only get injured.
III First-aid facilities are not available up there.
(a) Only I is implicit (b) Only II is implicit
(c) Only III is implicit
(d) Only one of the three is implicit
(e) None is implicit

Statement

52 A German linguist has found ancient inscriptions in caves of Peru and US which are very much similar to Sanskrit.

Assumptions

- I Indian settlers reached America long-long back, thousands of years back, much earlier than Columbus.
II The ancient civilized sect, who spoke Sanskrit, divided into two parts, one reached India and the other reached Peru and US.
III The similarity in inscriptions is a matter of chance.
(a) Only I is implicit (b) Only II is implicit
(c) Either I or II is implicit (d) Only III is implicit

(e) None is implicit

Statement

53 50th anniversary of Indian Independence was celebrated by Indians all over the world.

Assumptions

- I Although these Indians live in other countries, motherland is very close to their heart.
II There is hardly any country where Indians don't live.
III The celebrations must have been in typical Indian style.
(a) Only I is implicit
(b) Only I and II are implicit
(c) Only I and III are implicit
(d) Only II and III are implicit
(e) All are implicit

Statement

54 Some heavy stones rolled down from a wall in the famous Jagannath temple of Puri and caused casualties.

Assumptions

- I The temple needs proper repairs.
II The rolling of stones was due to the anger of gods.
III The temple is made of heavy stones.
(a) Only I and II are implicit
(b) Either II or III is implicit
(c) Only II and III are implicit
(d) Only I and III are implicit
(e) All are implicit

Statement

55 A compartment of the train caught fire and blasted.

Assumptions

- I Someone had put a time bomb somewhere in the compartment.
II The train was going at a great speed.
III Some passenger was travelling with unannounced explosives and it was an accident.
(a) Only I is implicit (b) Either I or III is implicit
(c) Only II is implicit
(d) Only I and II are implicit
(e) Only II and III are implicit

Statement

56 The whole of the world mourned Mother Teresa's death.

Assumptions

- I Everyone respects persons who serve the humanity without any selfish interest.
II Mother's work was of such a magnitude that the whole world came to realize it.
III Mother dedicated her life to the cause of suffering and humanity, and made the world a better place for the destitutes, irrespective of their nationality, cast and creed.
(a) Only I is implicit
(b) Only II and III are implicit
(c) Only I and III are implicit
(d) All are implicit (e) None is implicit

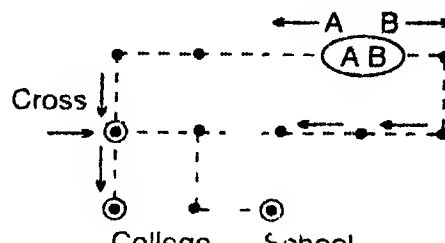
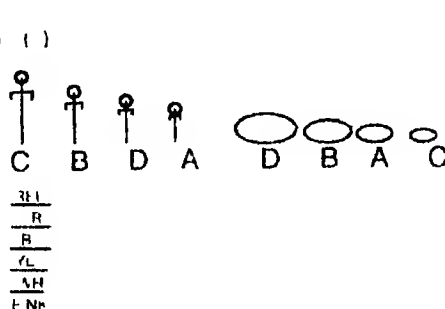
In each question below is given a question Q, followed by two statements SI and SII. Mark your answers.

- (a) if only SI is enough to answer the question
(b) if only SII is enough to answer the question
(c) if both SI and SII are needed to answer the question
(d) if either SI or SII are enough to answer the question

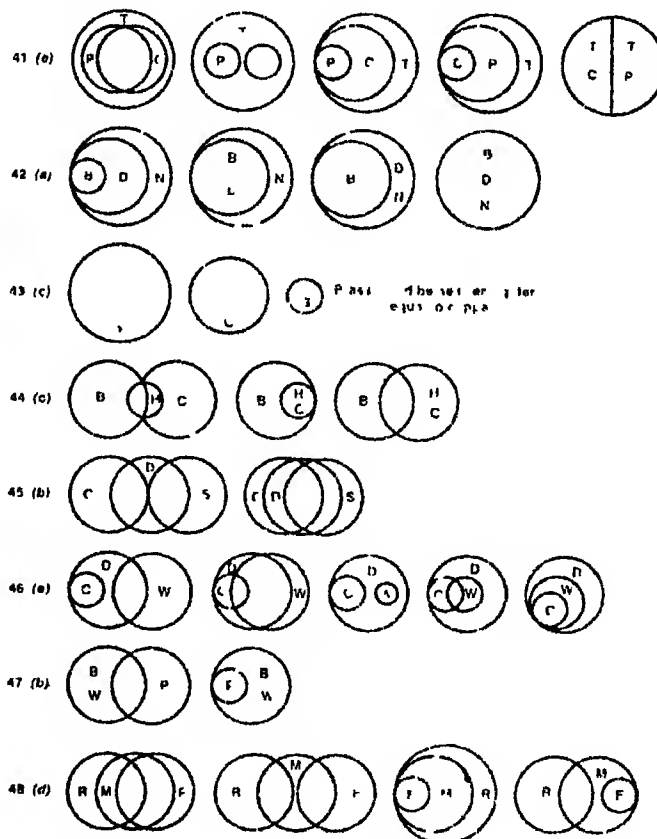
- (e) if neither SI nor SII can answer the question
- 57 Q What is Amit's rank in his class?
 SI There are 19 boys after him
 SII There are 40 boys in Amit's class
 (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐
- 58 Q What is the capital of State X?
 SI The capital is situated on the bank of the river that flows through the State
 SII The river passes through five States of the country
 (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐
- 59 Q How many extra days are there in a leap year?
 SI The leap year has 366 days
 SII In each leap year, the month February has 29 days instead of 28 days
 (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐
- 60 Q How far is the city 'X' from city 'Y'?
 SI The non stop train, going at a speed of 100 km per hour takes $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. to reach Y after leaving X
 SII The bus takes about 2 hrs
 (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- (d) All the others have a silent letter
 - (b) All the others are natural feelings and emotions
 - (e) All the others are creature of water specially sea water
 - (b) These are the muscles among bones
 - (d) This is the only length and breadth measurement among straight ones
 - (a) All the others are fruits
 - (c) All the others are situated on the banks of holy Ganga
 - (c) All the other terms are connected with eye
 - (b) Just as tongue is surrounded and protected by teeth so is heart by ribs
 - (c) The relationship is that of two members of a general group
 - (a) The relationship is that of the creature and its style of eating (Worry in such cases means seize with teeth and shake)
 - (b) The relationship is that of item and its particular function
 - (d) The relationship is that of the size
 - (d) They have the relationship of degree/intensity
 - (a) They are opposites
 - (c) One depends upon the other
 - (c) 18 (c) 19 (a) 20 (b) 21 (d)
- In questions 22 to 24 see how letter of the words are coded with the letters from alphabets. Study the difference and match them accordingly. In questions 25 and 26 the letters are jumbled in a systematic way
- (b) 23 (e) 24 (d) 25 (a) 26 (c)
- (d)
- Qs 28 to 30 The arrangement of letters would be
 HGFEDCBARQPONMIKJIZYXWVUTS
- (c) 29 (a)
- (b)

- 31 (c)
- 32 ()
- 33 (d)
- 34 (b)
- 35 (f) 36 ()
- 37 (d)
- 38 (f)
- 39 (c)
- 40 (c)
- 
- 

Qs 41 to 48 The correct answer to the question is by drawing diagram and by producing it and then reaching the best possible conclusion. To avoid this, practice by reaching a respective of its. Study the diagram and reach the best and the best diagram for the best example.



- 49 (b) 50 (a) 51 () 52 (c) 53 ()
- 54 (d) 55 (b) 56 (d) 57 (c) 58 (c)
- 59 (d) 60 (c)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

NATIONAL

INDIA-USA

Gujral-Clinton meeting

ON September 22 1997 Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral and President Bill Clinton of USA had a summit meeting which helped further boost the Indo-US relations which had remained static for past few years.

The main focus of the meeting was on bilateral issues—especially economic. The major outcome of the meeting was that the ties now seem poised to progress much faster.

India's entry into the UN Security Council nuclear disarmament and UN reforms were some other major issues discussed.

(For details see Special Feature on page 307)

INDIA-PAKISTAN

No breakthrough on any front; ties worsen due to unprovoked firing by Pak troops

THE third round of talks between the foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan began on September 16 1997 at New Delhi. The talks were preceded by India asking Pakistan to withdraw two of its staffers from New Delhi High Commission as they were indulging in acts incompatible with their status. Pakistan retaliated by asking India to withdraw two staffers from the Islamabad mission.

Before the beginning of the talks both countries declared their firm commitment to sustain bilateral dialogue and give concrete shape to the mechanism to tackle outstanding issues.

However the talks ended without any major success with both sides failing to operationalise the mechanism for discussions.

Pakistan had insisted on separate working groups to be formed to deal with Kashmir as well as peace and security is-

RBI Annual Report

The Reserve Bank of India, in its annual report for 1996-97 has said that the government will find it difficult to rein in fiscal deficit under the targeted 4.5 per cent of the GDP in 1997-98 unless it takes some hard decisions on subsidies and administered prices.

The report further adds that there are signs that government expenditures may overshoot the targeted levels while revenues may not be quite up to the mark.

The RBI has suggested a reduction in both explicit and implicit subsidies in the non-merit goods sectors so as to bring down the level of non-interest revenue expenditure. One of the subsidies recommended for pruning is the food subsidy for persons over the poverty line.

The report also says that all economic indicators of the country are favourable and that the economy would grow by 6-7 per cent in 1997-98. This will be possible, largely on account of the buoyant growth in agriculture, which will trigger a revival in domestic demand for consumer goods.

At a Glance

- Fiscal Deficit may cross 4.5 per cent of GDP if subsidies are not cut, administered pricing dismantled
- Industrial turnaround expected this year, state support to infrastructure important
- Petro bonds to be considered as government borrowings, mounting government debt to affect interest rate structure.
- Fulfilment of all preconditions of Tarapore committee not essential for full convertibility, current account deficit no longer a constraint
- Unwarranted appreciation in the rupee to be stemmed
- Need for more autonomy for banks and FIs
- Price stability target to be top priority, targeted inflation rate brought down

issues. India, however, refused to concede on a "work group" to separately deal with Kashmir.

Following inconclusive secretary-level meeting, the focus shifted to New York where Prime Minister Gujral met his counterpart Mr Nawaz Sharif, during his visit from September 20, 1997.

The Gujral-Sharif talks were cordial, although static on key issues. Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif offered to open negotiations on a treaty of non-aggression with India. He mentioned this in his address to the UN General Assembly. The Indian side, in the Gujral-Sharif talks, also emphasised the need for greater economic cooperation not only between the two countries but with SAARC countries as a whole. Although Mr Sharif had attacked India in his General Assembly ad-

dress, the Indian side preferred to adopt a more mature and sober attitude. They pointed out that they had "taken note" of the Sharif's offer of a non-aggression pact. It was pointed out that a "no-war pact" was in fact first offered by India to Pakistan as far back as 1948 when Nehru put forth a similar proposal to Pakistan. The two sides corresponded for more than a year but without success. In the early 1980s, Pakistan offered a similar proposal to which New Delhi responded with a treaty of peace and friendship which too, after much discussion, proved a non-starter. The Indian side has also pointed out that issues like troop reduction and non-aggression pacts can't be discussed in isolation. India has also said no to troop pullout from Kashmir. Nothing much was, however, achieved in the meeting between

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NATIONAL

the two Prime Ministers.

Firing by Pak: While talks were being held to resolve issues, Pakistani troops stepped-up their firing across the Line of Actual Control (LoC) in Uri, Jammu, Mohra and Kargil sectors. On October 1, 1997, the Pakistanis targeted civilian areas of Kargil, destroying a school building and a hospital. Sixteen civilian were killed and scores were injured. The Indian troops retaliated and destroyed several bunkers, killing more than 50 Pak soldiers.

The main purpose behind the firing seems to be an attempt by the military and ISI to let the politicians know that no peace can be negotiated without army's support. Also, this was seen as an attempt to internationalise the issue before the secretary-level talks and Mr Sharief's US visit. That nothing much was achieved, except negative publicity, is another issue.

INDIA-TANZANIA

Visit of Prime Minister Gujral

PRIME Minister Inder Kumar Gujral visited Tanzania for three-day official tour from September 18, 1997.

During his visit Mr Gujral announced an "emergency relief" of 1000 tonnes of rice to Tanzania, where a food emergency has been declared in the wake of a severe drought. Mr Gujral also announced the waiving of certain dues against Tanzania.

Tanzania assured India that it would back New Delhi's bid to secure a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. Tanzania is at present Chairman of G-77 grouping and an important member of NAM.

INDIA-SPAIN

Treaty on Investment

INDIA and Spain have signed an investment promotion and protection agreement to infuse new dynamism to the

Indo-Spanish economic relations.

The agreement provides for each country to encourage and create favourable conditions for investors and to accord fair and equitable treatment to investments from the other country. Each government is required to accord Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment and national treatment to investments and also MFN treatment to investors. It also stipulates that nationalisation or expropriation will not be resorted to except in the public interest in accordance with law, on a non-discriminatory basis, and on payment of compensation.

sation.

There will be transferability of investments and returns on them. There will be an elaborate dispute resolution mechanism. The agreement has a provision relating to the entry and movement of non-citizens in relation to an investment made in that country by an investor of the other country.

SCANDALS

JMM Case: SC rejects Rao's plea

THE Supreme Court, on September 24, rejected former Prime Minister P.V.

Recent Economic News

Pay Commission Report: Government concedes most demands

The Union Government, on September 11, 1997, conceded most of the demands put forward by Central Government employees unions, including an increase in basic pay component. This also helped avert a mass strike that the Central staff had planned from September 24. The acceptance of the demands implies an extra burden of Rs 7100 crore for the current financial year.

The settlement provides for the revised basic pay being fixed by adding to the old basic pay its 40 per cent as against 20 per cent recommended by the pay commission and approved by the Cabinet on July 17.

The government also agreed to the unions' demand for full payment of arrears in cash. The earlier decision was to give 50 per cent of the arrears in cash and keep the remaining 50 per cent in the provident fund.

Another major concession to the unions is the revocation of the decision to abolish 3.5 lakh vacant posts. However, the decision has yet to be formalised by the Cabinet.

In Brief

- A 40 per cent hike in basic pay of certain lower categories of employees.
- An additional burden of Rs 18,500 crore on the government during 1997-98 as against Rs 13,260 crore in the earlier package.
- Outgo of Rs 12,400 crore on an annualised basis.
- Provision of inclusion of B category non-gazetted employees for payment of bonus.
- Lifting of salary ceiling for Bonus eligibility.
- Payment of full arrears in cash.
- Two financial upgradations for group 'C' and 'D' employees in a career assured.
- Extension of the scheme to group 'B' to be considered later.
- Abolition of vacant posts and reduction in the number of casual leaves to be reviewed.
- Need-based recruitment to continue.
- Status quo to continue on downsizing the government employees.
- Status quo to be maintained on introduction of AGRs for group 'C' and 'D'.

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NATIONAL

Customs duty hike to reduce fiscal impact of pay increase

The Pay Commission settlement put an additional burden of Rs 6,750 crore on the exchequer for the current year.

Strung by the huge burden, the government decided to:

- Cut plan and non-plan expenditure by 5 per cent to save Rs 3,200 crore. Defence and other priority areas, however, will not be touched.

- Hike import duty on non-POL imports (excluding protect imports) by 2 per cent; countervailing duty on EPCG exports has been hiked by 10 per cent. Foreign tax has been doubled. This will fetch an additional Rs 1,400 crore.

- Another Rs 2,000 crore will be available from PSU disinvestment.

Besides, the government also decided to allow direct negotiations for two large power projects. The phased decontrol of gas prices has also been stated.

Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said that the hike in duty on imports was a "one-time measure" to deal with a temporary fiscal situation and reiterated the commitment of government to gradually bring down average import tariffs to Asian levels by 2000.

Average tariff in India is still around 20 per cent, compared to 12 per cent in most of South-East Asia.

Narasimha Rao's plea to stay the High Court judgement (September 12) in the JMM MPs' bribery case. The High Court had directed Mr Rao and 18 others to face trial in the Rs 3.5 crore Jharkhand Mukti Morcha MPs' bribery case.

The Supreme Court upheld the decision of the special court observing that there was *prima facie* evidence for various offences including conspiracy and bribery under the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The others accused in the JMM case—whose plea against the framing of charges in the case was dismissed—were former Union Ministers Satish Sharma, Buta Singh, Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav, Ajit Singh, former Chief Ministers Bhajan Lal, M. Veerappa Moily, MPs Anadi Charan Das, Rajeshwar Rao, H.M. Revanna and Rama Lingam.

Mr Rao had challenged that Members of Parliament cannot be charged under Section 2(c) (viii) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 as they were not public servants. The High Court, however, ruled that Members of Parliament are public servants as they do public duty while holding

office, which are the two essential ingredients in the definition of public servant as given in the Act.

The trial in JMM bribery case is expected to begin on November 4, 1997.

BABRI MASJID CASE

Advani, Thackeray face charges

A designated court, on September 9, 1997, decided to frame charges against 49 persons, including Shiv Sena Supremo Bal Thackeray, BJP President L.K. Advani, former Union Home Minister Murli Manohar Joshi and former UP Chief Minister Kalyan Singh, in cases relating to the demolition of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992.

The list of offences includes promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion and imputations and assertions prejudicial to maintenance of harmony, injuring or defiling a place of worship with intent to insult the religion.

Some of the accused have also been charged for dacoity and voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty, while the then District Magistrate of

Faizabad, Ravindra Nath Srivastava, and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Devendra Bahadur Roy are also charged for illegal omission besides the conspiracy for the demolition of Babri Masjid.

MEDIA

Prasar Bharati comes into force

THE long-awaited Prasar Bharati Act, to grant autonomy to All India Radio and *Doordarshan*, came into force on September 16, 1997, thus clearing the decks for the constitution of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India).

Under the Act, notified on July 22 after a gap of seven years, the general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs of the corporation will be carried out by the Prasar Bharati Board. The Board was supposed to be appointed by a three-member selection committee comprising the Vice-President Krishan Kant, chairman of the Press Council of India, P.B. Samant and a government nominee. However, the government is yet to announce the chairman of the Prasar Bharati, as also its other members.

The actual functioning of a more autonomous organisation controlling AIR and *Doordarshan* will only commence sometime towards the end of the year or early next year. This is expected to coincide with the setting up of a broadcast authority of India with the likely passing of the Broadcast Bill during the winter session of the Parliament.

WELFARE SCHEMES

Scheme for the Girl Child

ON October 2, 1997, Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral launched a scheme aimed at transforming the social perception about girls. The intention is to make them sought-after family members (especially amongst the abysmally poor living below the poverty line) rather than be treated as "curse and liabilities".

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The scheme involves a Rs 500 one-time grant to each girl born after August 15 in families living below the poverty line. This will be followed by an annual grant of Rs 500 in primary school and Rs 1,000 at the secondary stage. The above grant will be in addition to other benefits admissible.

Families with an annual income of Rs 11,000 or less—as per the 1992 price index—with newly born female babies will be eligible for the grant.

The scheme makes an effort to end female infanticide. In order to prevent misuse of the scheme, a rider has been attached to the scheme which stipulates that a family cannot claim this benefit for more than two female babies.

Nearly 264 lakh children are born every year and out of them about 126 lakh are females. Considering the fact that the third or fourth female child born in a family will not be eligible for the grant, it has been estimated that almost 22 lakh female babies born in families below the poverty line will benefit annually from the first time grant alone.

The total number of beneficiaries in the scheme is expected to be quite high.

DISASTERS

HPCL refinery blast

At least 25 people were killed and an unspecified number of people injured in a huge explosion which took place at the Vishakhha Refinery of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) at Vishakhapatnam on September 14, 1997. The explosion was caused by a "leakage" in the pipelines while transferring LPG from the Vishakhapatnam port to the refinery. Apparently, this happened when a LPG tanker was discharging the fuel into the refinery tank. Since the imported LPG does not have odour, the leakage could not be detected. The explosion sent the flames rushing across the road setting fire to storage tanks that contained petrol,

kerosene and LPG. About 70,000 people in the vicinity of the plant had to flee in search of safer places.

The refinery had been recently recommissioned after a maintenance shut down. As a result, most of the spheres (storage tanks) and tankers were half-empty. The refinery is also undergoing a Rs 953 crore expansion, aimed at increasing its processing capacity from the existing 4.5 million tonnes of crude to 7.5 million tonnes.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

India opens doors for inspection

In a significant policy shift, India has decided to throw open its two nuclear power reactors at Kakrapar in Gujarat for inspection by international experts. The two reactors will be opened up in November, 1997 for visits by members of the Tokyo-based World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO).

The efforts in increased transparency are seen as India's response to both Western and local criticism that the country is operating vintage reactors of unsafe design.

WANO consists of the world's top nuclear experts and a good certificate from this body is expected to put an end to unwarranted criticism about safety or

poor performance of Indian plants.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Gujrat has made it clear that India will not make nuclear weapons but will prefer its nuclear option to meet unforeseen circumstances.

The Prime Minister said that use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes will continue to be the government's policy and added that India has always lived up to its commitment in this regard.

AGRICULTURE

Call to modernise and upgrade

In their study entitled "New agricultural policy and emerging issues in agricultural Marketing", agronomists P.C. Ravi, P.K. Madonna and P.G. Chengappa have said that it is now time India should give a complete overhaul to its farming sector, pumping in more money to modernise and run it on corporate lines.

This alone would help build stocks for export and let the benefits of globalisation reach poor and marginal farmers, now dependent on rains and primitive methods of cultivation.

As primary markets represent an elementary stage in the development of rural economy, so primary choice on market investment must be to develop these centres into viable market centres and provide

Financial autonomy for 97 PSUs

On October 9, 1997, the government announced a financial and operational autonomy package for 97 profit-making Public Sector Units (PSUs), giving them substantial powers to incur capital expenditure and enter into joint ventures.

As per the Industry Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the package aims at "deregulation, depoliticisation and de-bureaucratisation" of the PSUs. The new package is an extension of the earlier measures given to nine leading PSUs, including Indian Oil Corporation, Steel Authority of India and Bharat Heavy Electricals.

With this package, a total of 106 of the 243 central PSUs have now been given managerial, operational and financial autonomy. Oil India Limited, Shipping Corporation of India, Power Grid Corporation of India, Bharat Aluminium Company, NMDC Ltd and State Trading Corporation are among the 97 PSUs to be benefited by the new package.

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them with the basic market infrastructure in a phased manner

The modernisation process for markets, particularly for the large ones, will require mechanical devices and facilities to speed up the assembly, cleaning, grading, weighing, selling, bagging and transport of the produce through the markets.

The other infrastructure which needs consideration are transportation facilities to cater to the needs of small and marginal farmers to transport their produce to regulate markets at reasonable charges.

Besides this, creation of storage facilities such as silos and cold storages both at market yards and in rural areas and setting up of grading and packaging units within the market yards would go a long way in enhancing the marketing efficiency to a great extent.

The experts have also stressed the need to have the market centres linked with roads and communication network with every village of the hinterland and with other wholesale regulated markets.

The planning for scientific marketing has to begin right from the farm level involving scientific cultural practices to produce quality products followed by appropriate post-harvest practices to avoid post-harvest losses and maintain quality.

ASSAM

Centre to set up JWG to solve Bodo issue

At the end of the tripartite meeting, on September 18, 1997, to review the implementation of the 1993 Bodo accord, the Home Minister, Mr Inderjit Gupta, announced that Centre has decided to set up a joint working group, comprising representatives of the Union and the Assam government and Bodo groups, to study all aspects of the ethnic issue.

Emerging out of the meeting, the Bodo leaders expressed satisfaction at the talks and felt that "given sincerity on the

part of the Centre, an amicable solution could be found to the vexed problem."

However, the Bodo leaders maintained that nothing but a separate State carved out of Assam would do.

UTTAR PRADESH

Kalyan sworn-in as CM in smooth change of guard

A 44-member coalition Ministry, headed by Senior BJP leader Kalyan Singh, was sworn-in on September 21, 1997 in a smooth change of guard in Uttar Pradesh.

The switch-over from the BSP-lead Mayawati government took place under a unique power-sharing accord between the BSP and the BJP, under which Ms

Mayawati was to be the Chief Minister for first six months and Mr Kalyan Singh for next six. The accord was signed in March 1997 after the electorate gave a fractured verdict leading to continuation of President's rule in the State.

The transfer of power, however, ran into rough weather with the BSP insisting on change of Speaker, who belongs to the BJP, as a condition for change of guard apprehending he might play a partisan role in helping the BJP to muster a majority on its own by engineering defection in other parties.

Weeks of uncertainty over the transition and hectic parleys between the top leadership of the alliance partners ended when the BJP gave an undertaking that it would not trigger defections during the party's rule.

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UNITED KINGDOM

Scotland votes for own Parliament

SCOTLAND voted for home rule through a unique referendum on September 11, 1997. The referendum result marked a rare constitutional reform in Britain in recent history and the greatest change to Anglo-Scottish relations since the 1707 Act of Union.

The Scots voted on a blueprint drawn up by the Labour Party which was included in the party's manifesto for the general elections five months ago. Under this blueprint, there was to be a Scottish parliament with 129 members (MSPs), 56 of whom would be elected under a system of proportional representation.

Earlier, the conservative campaign had sought to frighten the voters by conjuring up the prospects of a "tartan tax" in Scotland to be levied by new Parliament in Edinburgh. However, a majority of voters also gave the new parliament tax raising powers. In the referendum, the voters were asked to say whether they wanted a separate parliament for Scotland and whether such a parliament should have tax-raising powers. There was an affirmative vote on both counts.

The pro-devolution campaign was also supported by the Scottish Nationalist Party which wants full independence for Scotland. It said the people would eventually vote for full independence.

The elections for the new Scottish parliament will be held in May 1999 and the 129 MPs will take their seats for the first time in 2000. The new parliament will be based on a system which is a mix of first-past-the-post and proportional representation. This is intended to ensure that no single party dominates the new parliament.

PAKISTAN

Nuclear Capability acknowledged

PAKISTANI Prime Minister Nawaz Sharief has openly acknowledged that Pakistan possesses nuclear capability saying it is an "established fact" now. Mr Sharief said that whatever they have is their right as a sovereign nation. He has also said that the country is far ahead on this front.

Sharief's open acknowledgement of the country's nuclear capability came as a remarkable move before his scheduled meeting with US President Bill Clinton in New York where several issues, including the issue of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and regional peace and security, were to be discussed.

ALGERIA

Rebels cease fire

ALGERIA'S Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) rebels declared a ceasefire from October 1 to expose rival GIA guerrillas, whom it blames for massacres of civilians in the north African country.

The AIS commander said that the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), and unnamed forces manipulating them, were bent on torpedoing conciliatory measures taken by the Algerian government to try to end the bloody five year old civil strife.

The AIS statement came just a day after some 200 civilians were killed in Algiers' Baraki suburb, in the worst of recent massacres blamed by the authorities on Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas.

Islamic militants launched an insurgency in 1992 after the army cancelled a parliamentary vote that Islamic fundamentalists were poised to win. More than 60,000 people have died in five years of fighting. The Islamic militants want to establish a government based on a strict interpretation of Koranic law, which would require women to cover their heads, ban alcohol and compulsory

Koranic education. Many secular Algerians oppose the Islamic militants.

MIDDLE EAST

Israel ready to resume talks with PLO

ON September 28, Israel declared that it was ready to resume negotiations with the Palestinians on implementing aspects of their interim autonomy agreements. Apparently, the negotiations would involve pending issues such as the opening of an airport and a seaport in the Gaza strip, the release of Palestinian prisoners and movements between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A resumption of negotiations would be accompanied by a relaunching of security cooperation between the Israeli and Palestinian security forces.

Israel had suspended implementation of the autonomy agreements following suicide bombings in Jerusalem on July 30 and September 4, 1997, which left 20 Israelis dead. Netanyahu had said he would not reopen talks until Arafat's Palestinian authority cracked down on the hardline Islamic resistance movement (Hamas), which claimed responsibility for the bombings.

Earlier, US Secretary of State Madeline Albright had made efforts to prod Israelis and Palestinians back into peace talks, but without success. However, her efforts were appreciated. She called for a collective effort from all countries in the region to revive the peace process. The visit did help in making the situation more positive than before.

CHINA

Jiang re-elected as General Secretary of CPC

JIANG Zemin was, on September 19, 1997, re-elected General Secretary of the

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ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) introduced by other members of the all-powerful new standing committee of the CPC Central Committee to the media soon after the conclusion of the first plenary of the 15th National Congress of the Party at Great Hall of the People.

The People's Liberation Army (PLA), China's military, has not been incorporated in the newly constituted Politburo of the CPC.

President Jiang's call for a wide sector revolution signalled a new spirit of adventure in Beijing's reform policies. In a keynote speech Jiang vowed to alter new ownership patterns of firms, shoring up state enterprise, and deference to plans to mass privatization. He also pledged to push to speed political reforms.

The main task of political restructuring included developing democracy, strengthening the legal system, separating government functions from enterprise management, streamlining government organs and maintaining stability and unity. He said how ever, economic reform takes priority over political reforms.

KOREA

Peace talks break down

FOUR way talks to arrange peace conference for the divided Korean peninsula broke down after North Korea refused to soften demands that the agenda should include withdrawal of US troops from South Korea. No further preliminary talks have been scheduled.

The North Koreans insisted on a separate peace treaty with Washington, excluding South Korea, and for time guarantees. The US had to shelve off future talks with the USA and South Korea have long rejected the conditions. North Korea apparently did not seem to be in a position to lead in a serious manner.

Frequent diplomatic contacts have continued between North Korea and the USA.

SRI LANKA

Tamil parties reject devolution plan

ON October 3, 1997, the Tamil parties rejected Sri Lanka government's plans to hold referendum to decide geographical devolution of the north and east, saying it would only worsen the ethnic divide that sparked the bloody civil war.

Constitutional changes aimed at devolving more power to regional administrative units are intended to meet some of the demands of the LTTE.

According to Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Mr Gamini Peris, the government proposed to hold a series of plebiscites in an effort to resolve the contentious issue of a merged northern and east province, which minority Tamils say is their traditional homeland.

The north and east had been temporarily merged under the Indian brokered peace accord in 1987.

NEPAL

Chand government ousted

THE seven-month-old Lokendra Bahadur Chand led Leftist Rightist government was ousted from office on October 1, 1997, following an opposition sponsored censure motion winning majority in the *Pratinidhi Sabha*, the Lower House of Parliament.

The ouster of the Leftist Centrist Chand coalition cleared the way for a pro-Centrist coalition once again in Nepal, to be headed by the Rashtriya Prajantika Party (RPP).

A Nepali Congress led three-party Centrist coalition including the RPP and the Nepal Sadbhavana Party was the immediate predecessor of the Chand admin-

istration. It was ousted in March 1996 when erstwhile Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba lost a confidence vote in parliament.

RPP president and *Chand's* *beh-nom* Surya Bahadur Thapa, who heads the rival faction in the party, was appointed the Prime Minister on October 5.

The new coalition consists of the RPP and the Nepali Sadbhavana Party with Nepali Congress supporting from outside.

UN

Security Council expansion runs into rough weather

A US proposal to add Germany, Japan and three other countries as permanent members of the Security Council was supposed to boost stalled efforts to reform the UN's most powerful body. Instead, it unleashed a flood of counterproposals and fuelled national rivalries.

Italy, the fifth largest contributor to UN budget, was enraged that Germany's proposal was promoted at Italy's expense.

Under the US plan, the three permanent seats besides those of Germany and Japan were to go to developing countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America. Who would take the seats was left to be decided by the countries of the respective regions.

The question whether the new permanent members will have same veto power as those of existing members, was also left open for debate.

India's stake. Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, while addressing the General Assembly of the 52nd session of the UN, on September 24, 1997, made a strong pitch for a permanent seat for India in the UN Security Council, saying that the country's size, worldview and its readiness for constructive engagement in world affairs called for such recognition.

Mr Gujral also spoke of India's longstanding participation in UN peace

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keeping operations and emphasised on the point that India's candidature would not only be meant to represent Asian countries but the entire developing world.

DISASTER

Forest fires in Indonesia wreck havoc in the region

FOREST fires in seventeen Indonesian provinces choked entire South-East Asia with smoke haze throughout the month of September and beginning October. President Suharto declared the widespread fires as a national disaster.

The resultant smog caused increase in spread of respiratory problems in the region. There were also reports of crop and livestock damage. Between 6,00,000 and 8,00,000 hectares of forest and plantation have been hit by fires.

According to the meteorologists, El Nino, an abnormal weather pattern over the Pacific Ocean, delayed the monsoon rains needed to extinguish the fires thus further adding to the disaster.

Two major accidents took place in the region because of poor visibility. On September 27, 1997, an Indonesian Airbus crashed leaving 234 people killed. The plane was on a flight from Jakarta to Medan city in Sumatra.

On September 27, a collision between an Indian Cargo ship and a super tanker, in the Straits of Malacca, resulted in twenty nine dead.

TREATIES

Treaty on Mines approved; US left out in cold

A treaty draft calling for a ban on land mines was approved by more than 100 nations at the treaty talks in Oslo. The United States has, however, pointed out that it failed in attempts to force compromises in the treaty. Supporters of the treaty

Rich-poor gap widening: UN report

According to a UN Conference on Trade and Development report, the global economic growth is likely to continue at a sluggish rate while the gap between the rich and poor spars.

Since the beginning of the decade, world output growth averaged about two per cent annually, down from three per cent during the 1980s. This was largely due to the slowdown in industrialised countries, where economic expansion averaged a disappointing 1.8 per cent.

Such a relatively modest rate can solve neither the North's labour market problems, nor the South's poverty problems, nor will it allow for a narrowing of the North-South divide, says the report.

The report also contradicts the view that unfettered competition of the free market was in the global good.

The report also condemns the emphasis on quick gains on financial markets rather than long-term commitments to investment.

Citing figures, the report points out that in 1965 average per capita income of the world's richest seven nations was 20 times that of the poorest seven; by 1995, it had soared to 39 times as much.

Rather than the 'Big Bang' approach to trade liberalisation, as urged by the World Trade Organisation, the report advocates a more gradual process, tailored to individual economies.

now hope that the treaty will be signed in Ottawa in December, 1997. They have said that they would press to get key powers such as Russia, China and India to join the process by then.

Campaigners have estimated that the devices kill or maim 26,000 people a year—about 80 per cent of them civilians.

The move to ban land mines proceeded with unusual speed and pressure after the death of Britain's Princess Diana who had campaigned for a ban. The approval of the treaty proved to be a defeat for the USA which had been at odds with other nations throughout the talks. It had sought several exceptions, including a nine-year delay in implementing the treaty and allowing countries to withdraw from the treaty if they come under attack. The USA had also wanted to exempt anti-personnel mines that are laid to protect anti-tank mines.

However, the non-governmental organisations were outraged and insisted that the ban must be total and immediate to be worth anything.

PHILIPPINES

Ramos Bows to 'people power'

FOR the second time in eleven years hundreds of thousands of people in Manila protested and forced a Philippine President to yield to their wishes and not seek extended term.

On September 21, 1997, President Fidel Ramos said that he will not seek to amend the constitution, during his term, to enable him to stand for re-election.

Supporters of Ramos had been trying to remove a clause from the constitution that limits presidents to a single term.

Among the protestors were priests, nuns, business leaders as also ordinary Filipinos. They were led by country's two most prominent democracy activists—former President Corazon Aquino and Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

Aquino, Sin and Ramos were all key leaders of the massive "people power" rallies in 1986 that toppled dictator Ferdinand Marcos and inspired non-violent democratic movements around the world.

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Current General Knowledge

ABBREVIATIONS

IRS: Indian Remote Sensing Satellite
RTI: Right to Information
VPT: Village Public Telephone

AWARDS

Bhatnagar Awards, 1997

Biological sciences: J. Gowrishankar of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad and Dr Kanury Venkata Subba Rao of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi.

For Chemical sciences: Dr Kankan Bhattacharya of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Calcutta and Dr A. Srikrishna of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

For Engineering sciences: Dr Devang V. Khakhar of Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.

For Medical sciences: Dr Satish Kumar Gupta of the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi and Dr Vijay Kumar of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi.

For Physical sciences: Dr Bikas Kanta Chakrabarti of Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Calcutta and Dr Amitava Raychaudhuri of University of Calcutta.

B.C. Roy Award

SRIDHAR Shetty of the A.B. Shetty Memorial Institute of Dental Sciences, Mangalore, has won the Dr B.C. Roy National Award for his outstanding service in the socio-medical field.

Gandhi Peace Prize, 1997

GERHARD Fischer of Germany has been named as the winner of the International Gandhi Peace Prize for 1997, for his outstanding work for the treatment and rehabilitation of leprosy patients and children affected by polio.

UNESCO Gandhi Award

JANET Jaoran, a Chicago-born nurse in Guyana, has been awarded the Mahatma Gandhi Award for promoting peace and human rights. The prize is awarded by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Jamnalal Bajaj Awards, 1997

For promoting Gandhian values outside India: Young Seok Choue of South Korea.

For uplift and welfare of women and children: Vinobaniketan in Thiruvananthapuram.

For application of science and technology for rural development: S.S. Katagihallimath of Bangalore.

For constructive work: R.K. Patil of Nagpur.

Sanskriti Awards, 1996

For Literature: Ranjit Hoskote

For Journalism: Wasbir Hussain

For Art: Sudarshan Shetty

For Music: Sanjay Subrahmanyam

For Social and cultural achievements:

Kisan Shakti Sangathan

U Thant Peace Award, 1997

PRIME Minister Inder Kumar Gujral has been conferred the U Thant Peace Award in recognition of his contribution to world peace.

CYBERSPACE

And now, an Encyberpedia

THE Internet is recognised as the biggest encyclopedia, with information on just about anything. The difficulty often is how to locate it when you need it. To get over the problem of searching various sites and still not finding the relevant information, some service providers are attempting to arrange the information in an orderly manner. A new site, www.encyberpedia.com

has the information classified and easy to locate. The information is not as much as in an ordinary encyclopedia, but the site may grow in times to come. For the researcher who wants specific information, encyberpedia may be a boon in finding just the right information.

Cyberspace Auctions

IF you have something to sell, Internet may be the place where you can auction things. AuctionWeb lets sellers conduct their own auction, for a nominal fee. According to reports, over 6,000 items are auctioned everyday. Bidding can be done through e-mail and each lot remains open for 7 days. Founder Pierre Omidyar tries to control fraud by asking potential sellers to deal with only those who register their address and telephone number. Once the deal is struck, the buyer and seller make arrangements for sending the goods and payments on their own. AuctionWeb seems to be catching on. Some 1.8 million items are reported to have been auctioned since 1995.

DEFENCE

Indian Navy: sailing towards self-reliance

MODERN warship construction began in India in the 60s. Since then, 75 warships have been designed and built in Indian dockyards and construction of 18 is underway.

The 70s saw graduation towards construction of multi-purpose frigates, the 'Nilgiri' series, followed by a more potent version called 'Taragiri' class frigates in the 80s.

On successful completion of the task, research and development efforts were directed at designing sophisticated missile frigates, commissioned as 'Godavari' series.

These ships drew worldwide atten-

tion for being the first of their size to carry two large anti-submarine and anti-ship Sea King helicopters.

In the 90s, the Navy took up submarine building on a modest scale, the efforts climaxing in the production of INS *Shulki* in 1992.

A close interaction between the Navy and the research and development organisations in the country have resulted in indigenous production of advanced sonars and their installation on the war-ships.

Indigenous torpedo development projects to match advanced sonars are also being processed. Other major achievement in underwater warfare has been the production of mines and communication systems for covering sea operations.

The early thrust to achieve indigenisation of the whole gamut of weapons, sensors and equipment saw the establishment of Indian Naval Physical Laboratory in 1952. Later called the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory, it was subsequently absorbed as one of the laboratories under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Anti-submarine torpedo developed

THE indigenous anti-submarine torpedo for the Indian Navy, nick-named Advanced Experimental Torpedo (AET), is in the final stage of its development. The technical trials have been successfully completed.

The AET is tentatively expected to be inducted into the Navy by 1999, after user trials and preplanned product improvement.

EXPEDITION

Trans Himalayan Journey by Indian Women

AN eight-woman mountaineering expedition, the first trans Himalayan journey by Indian women, led by Everest heroine Bachendri Pal, crossed 40 mountain passes over 10,000-foot altitudes to complete an arduous trek of 4200 km Himalayan range.

The seven-and-a-half-month-long expedition began on February 4, 1997 from Bomdilla in Arunachal Pradesh. The team

halted at Siachen for about a month and hoisted the national tricolour at Indira Col, at 20,179 feet. The team members were: Chawla Jagirdar, Chetna Sahu, Laxmi Garbyal, Meena Rautela, Nanda Patel, Parvati Seepal and M. Kokila Sudha. The support team comprised Anita Sarkar and Nirmal Pandey.

The expedition was not without its share of problems as the team at one point split among themselves compelling Bachendri to forgo three of her team members—Mallika Virdi, Sumita Roy and Vineeta Muni. The expedition was organised and sponsored by Tata Steel, Jamshedpur and the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.

PERSONS

Fischer, Gerhard

GERMANY'S "Ambassador of Humanity" Gerhard Fischer, the winner of the Gandhi Peace Prize for 1997, retired prematurely from a diplomatic career and chose to work among leprosy patients in India. Starting by setting up centres for leprosy treatment, his activities now go beyond providing physical treatment. He has two centres in India, which also help overcome the stigma associated with leprosy, and provides a polio immunisation service in the countryside, for those who cannot go to hospitals.

PLACES

Athens

THE Greek city of Athens has been selected as the city to host the 2004 Olympic Games.

The city of Athens has a long history and has been inhabited since the Neolithic period. It is considered to be the birthplace of Western civilisation. Many intellectual and classical ideas have originated from there. It is the hub of commerce and is known for its temples and old buildings, among them the Parthenon, a temple for the city's patron goddess, Athena.

The ancient Olympic games began here in 776 BC, the first recorded date in Greek history. They were held at Olympia in honour of the protective deities, Zeus

and Hera. The Greeks dated events by reference to the year of the Olympiad. The first modern Olympic Games were also held in Athens in 1896.

RESEARCH

Be Social to fight colds

PEOPLE with plenty of friends and social ties have been found to be less susceptible to common colds than those who do not, according to a study conducted in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the USA. Volunteers were swabbed with cold viruses and their effect studied. It was found that people with ties among friends, family and community, were better able to recover and experienced less anxiety and depression. Researchers believe that taking part in social activities enhances motivation and self-worth, and these feelings may result in a greater ability to ward off the illness or deal with it. It is also felt that this may work for other illnesses as well. An outgoing person with a cheerful disposition may just be healthier as well.

SPACE

IRS-1D Launched

ON September 29, 1997 India's space programme received a further boost with the successful launch of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) D-4, that put the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-1D) into orbit.

Everything went with a clock-work precision, except for a minor hitch. The last stage of the rocket failed to put the satellite in a circular sun-synchronous orbit 817 km/817 km. Instead, the satellite was put into a 817 km/300 km elliptical orbit.

However, ISRO scientists managed to correct the problem using the on-board thrusters and put the satellite into near circular orbit, thus making it fully functional. The only loss was that of valuable fuel that might be required later-on for correction of the orbit. However, ISRO is confident that the satellite will survive three years of operational life.

The successful launch reaffirmed India's position as a growing space power. It has also taken the indigenous development efforts to new horizon.

The IRS-1D has been designed to meet

the increasing demands of the user community globally. It will be primarily used for vegetation monitoring besides serving as in-orbit replacement of IRS-1C.

The payload consists of panchromatic camera (PAN), Linear Imaging Self Scanner (LISS-III) and Wide Field Sensor (WIFS) cameras. A Satellite Position System (SPS) has been introduced as an experiment. It measures the position of the satellite in orbit using the Global Position System (GPS) receiver

The IRS-1D is considered to be one of the best remote-sensing satellites in the world. It is planned for global coverage to simultaneously cater to requirements from various users. The entire earth will be covered in 341 orbits during a 24-day cycle.

IRS-1D is also expected to boost efforts of the Antrix Corporation, the marketing arm of the Department of Space, to popularise the use of IRS data in other countries. The Corporation has signed a deal with the EOSAT, a US-based company, giving it rights for commercial reception and distribution of data world-wide, from IRS satellites, for 10 years

Insat-2D declared inoperable

INSAT-2D, which was launched just few months back lost its earth-lock on October 1, 1997 due to short-circuiting in one of its power bus, leading to massive power failure. Repeated attempts by ISRO scientists failed to rectify the problem and finally the satellite was declared inoperable on October 5, 1997.

The failure of INSAT-2D was a major setback for the National Stock Exchange, which was heavily dependent on it. Also, telephone links with remote areas and North-East India were lost.

The failure of INSAT-2D has proved to be a big setback for ISRO as well as services which were dependent on it.

Earlier Failed missions: Following are the Indian space missions that have failed:

1. SLV-3 (E1) launched on August 10, 1979 failed due to under-performance.
2. SLV-3 (D1) launched on May 31, 1981 failed due to under-performance.
3. ASLV-D1 launched on March 24, 1987 abandoned when first stage failed.

4. ASLV-D2 launched on July 13, 1988 abandoned because of control problem.

5. PSLV-D1 launched on September 20, 1993 failed due to software problem.

Satellites: 1. Bhaskara-2 launched on November 20, 1981 hit by camera failure.

2. INSAT-1A launched on April 10, 1982 hit by solar sail failure.

3. INSAT-1C launched on July 21, 1988 failed due to short circuit.

4. INSAT-1D launched on June 4, 1997 failed due to short circuit.

Atlantis Docks with Mir

THE systems of the troubled Russian space station, Mir, were up and running again after the crew put in a new main computer on September 9, 1997.

Mir bounced back faster this time, mainly because the station had some power in reserve, which it didn't have during the previous two computer break-downs.

On September 28, 1997 Space Shuttle Atlantis pulled up and docked with Mir to drop off American David Wolf following weeks of contentious debate.

To the relief of the 10 people in orbit and hundreds of flight controllers below, the main computer on the dilapidated Mir did not break down during the rendezvous.

Atlantis snuggled up to Mir as the space craft zoomed 400 km above the Russian-Kazak border, near the Caspian sea. The radio lines crackled in both Russian and English.

Wolf replaced Michael Foale, whose four and half month tenure included the worst wreck ever in space and a barrage of computer crashes.

Global Surveyor enters Mars atmosphere

SIXTY-nine days after Pathfinder touched down on the Martian surface on July 4, the Mars Global Surveyor, entered its atmosphere on September 2, 1997.

The Surveyor will not land on the planet's surface. Instead, it will orbit the planet till January 31, 2000, mapping the Martian surface, collecting data about the planet's weather, polar ice caps and its surface features. The eventual aim of this project is to explore the possibility of plan-

ning a manned mission to Mars in the coming years. It is expected to carry out some of the tasks which Mars Observer would have carried out had contact with the illfated spacecraft not been lost in August, 1993. The orbit, which has been selected by NASA scientists for carrying out the mapping operations, will ensure that Mars Global Surveyor will not crash into the surface for at least 50 years after the mission ends on January 31, 2000. The spacecraft was launched on November 7, 1996.

MISCELLANY

New Career Options on the Rise

Till three decades ago, a good career was that of a doctor, engineer or in the civil services. Those with a nerve for adventure joined the armed forces. But as economy grew and industry realised the importance of management, the 70s and 80s witnessed a sudden demand for managers and management became a big career selection.

The trend continues and today there are 800 management schools in the country as compared to just five 20 years ago.

The advent of foreign players and private channels in the electronic media has also thrown open a host of jobs.

Although India is regarded as a country with good number of IT professionals, there is still dearth of quality software developers and this is an area which is also going to see growth.

Internet is another area which is spreading its tentacles in India and the next boom is going to be here as people will be required for feeding data and developing websites.

Modern technology has also thrown open a number of specialised fields in traditional areas. Even an engineer feels he will be slotted into a second rate job unless he specialises in a particular field.

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SPORTS

ARCHERY

National Championship

LALREM Sanga, representing Bihar, beat Satyadev Prasad of UP 111-104 to claim the National Archery Championship held in New Delhi.

His Bihar team-mate Purnima Mahato claimed her second straight National title, becoming the best woman archer in the country. The team event was won by Uttar Pradesh in men's section. The women's team title was won by Bihar.

CRICKET

Sahara Cup

INDIA won the Sahara Cup 4-1, played in Toronto. It won the first four matches with an excellent display of bowling and batting.

India scored a 20-run victory over Pakistan in the first match. Chasing 209 for victory, Pakistan were shot out for 188 in 44.2 overs. Pakistan were all out for 117 in the second match and India managed to cross the target, in spite of crowd trouble. In the fourth match, Ganguly and Jadeja stood a 108 run stand to help India win with three balls to spare. The last match saw a fight back by Inzamam and Raza despite a top-order collapse. Pakistan won the last match by 5 wickets.

Irani Trophy

MUMBAI beat Rest of India by 54 runs to win the Irani trophy match played at Wankhade Stadium. It was Mumbai's 14th success in their 22 attempts. Bahutule scored 71 and hauled 13 wickets for 168 in his career best performance.

CHESS

Asian Junior Championship

LI Roufan of China won the Asian Junior girls championship through a higher

tiebreak score after India's S. Vijayalakshmi caught up with her in the 11th and last round. The championship was held at Jaipur.

In the men's section, Abhijit Kunte bagged the title.

International Grandmaster

EIGHT times National chess champion Praveen Thipsay was declared the international grandmaster. He follows grandmasters V. Anand and Dibyendu Barua in cornering the coveted honour.

FOOTBALL

South Asian Federation Football Championship

INDIA outplayed Maldives 5-1 to regain the South Asian Federation Football Championship title at the Dashrath Stadium in Kathmandu.

Subroto Cup

SUKANATA Nagar High School of West Bengal won the Subroto Cup football meet for the first time by edging out Central High School of Manipur, in a match played at Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi.

GOLF

Ryder Cup

EUROPEAN team members secured a memorable win over USA to win the Ryder Cup.

HOCKEY

Junior World Cup Hockey Championship

INDIA wasted 11 penalty corners as Australia prevailed 3-2 to win the final of Junior World Cup Hockey Championship played at Milton Keynes, UK.

Sardar Mohan Singh Hockey Title

CHOTU Ram Zamindar (CRZ) edged Bihar

Regimental Centre (Danapur) 4-2 in the tie-breaker to lift the boys' title of the Sardar Mohan Singh Hockey Tournament played at Shivaji Stadium in New Delhi. Both teams were locked 3-3 at the end of the regulation period.

TENNIS

US Open

AUSTRALIA'S Patrick Rafter beat unseeded Briton Greg Rusedski to win the US Open title played in New York. It was Rafter's first major title.

Martina Hingis earned the nickname of "The can't miss Swiss" with a 6-1, 6-1 win over American Venus Williams to claim her third major title of the year.

Grand Slam Cup

PETE Sampras beat US Open champion Patrick Rafter to win the \$1.5 million title money at the Grand Slam Cup, played at Munich.

China Open ATP Tournament

LEANDER Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi won the doubles title at the China Open ATP tournament in Beijing, defeating Jim Courier and Alex O'Brien of the US.

Davis Cup

INDIA defeated Chile 3-2 to win the World Group match played at New Delhi. The win was possible after Mahesh Bhupathi beat Chile's Gabriel Silberstein to win the decisive fifth match, after being two down in first two sets.

Federation Cup

FRANCE won the Federation cup for the first time, beating Netherlands 4-1 to give coach Yannick Noah a unique double as he had led the men to Davis Cup glory last year.

The Examiner's Guess Questions

Q. Where was India's first satellite-based village public telephone launched recently?

Ans. Sirauli in district Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh. Similar terminals were made operational at four other villages: Chittauni (UP), Tenga and Kaying (North-East) and Seluru (Andhra Pradesh). The village public telephone system is linked via Inmarsat's satellite communications network and is the first to be used for providing a village public telephone anywhere in the world.

Q. Between what stations did the world's oldest working steam engine run as part of celebrations of 50 years of India's independence?

Ans. Fairy Queen, the world's oldest working steam engine, ran 147 km between Delhi and Alwar, as part of celebrations for 50 years of India's independence.

Q. How much burden has the revised Fifth Pay Commission imposed on the nation?

Ans. The total financial burden arising from the revised Fifth Pay Commission recommendations has shot up to Rs 18,350 crore against the budgetary provision of Rs 11,250 crore. The Cabinet had later increased the provision to Rs 13,500 crore but the liability was further compounded as a result of new pay scales for class C and D employees. The additional liability now stands at Rs 7,100 crore after the government conceded the employees' demand for 40 per cent basic pay increase instead of 20 per cent recommended by the Commission.

Q. Which regiment of the Indian Army celebrated 200 years recently?

Ans. The second parachute regiment (Maratha), one of the elite units of the Indian Army, celebrated its bicentennial in Agra on September 6, 1997. It was raised by the East India Company on September

6, 1797 at Calicut and has a record of gallantry and sacrifice. It had taken part in the two world wars.

Q. What is the name of the first naval hospital, which celebrated its 46th anniversary recently?

Ans. The INHS *Asvini*. Earlier known as Kings Seaman Hospital, it has been in operation since 1756 and was commissioned on September 18, 1951.

Q. Who is known as the Saint of the Gutters?

Ans. Mother Teresa was often referred to as the Saint of the Gutters. World leaders, including US First Lady Hillary Clinton, attended her funeral in Calcutta recently.

Q. What is the name of the first home opened by Mother Teresa?

Ans. *Nirmal Hriday*

Q. Where has India's first naval communications museum been opened recently?

Ans. Kochi, at the Southern Naval Command's Signal School.

Q. What is the full form of AWACS?

Ans. Airborne early Warning and Control System

Q. Who has written the book, "*Punjab: The Knights of Falsehood*"?

Ans. K.P.S. Gill.

Q. The provisions of the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, was enacted recently to include what new category of employers?

Ans. It has been extended to include all those societies and trusts which employ 10 or more persons.

Q. What is the name of the Commission which submitted its interim report recently about Rajiv Gandhi's killing?

Ans. The Jain Commission, which submitted its interim report on August 28, 1997.

Q. Why did Japan apologise to China

recently?

Ans. Japan apologised to China for the atrocities and great losses it inflicted on it during the war.

Q. Which act will replace the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA)?

Ans. The Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)

Q. Where was the peace conference of Naga tribals held recently?

Ans. Atlanta, USA.

Q. What is the name of the currency trader who is said to be behind the recent fall of currencies of South-East Asian countries?

Ans. George Soros.

Q. Which countries were most affected by the forest fires in Indonesia?

Ans. Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore

Q. Name the US astronaut who replaced Michael Foale on the space station, Mir.

Ans. David Wolf.

Q. Who is the new Army Chief?

Ans. Lt Gen V.P. Malik.

Q. Who has won the B.C. Roy Award this year?

Ans. Prof Sridhar Shetty of Mangalore has won the Dr B.C. Roy Award for outstanding service in the sociomedical field.

Q. What are Jurassic babies?

Ans. Fossilised dinosaur embryos. About 140 million years old, they have been discovered near the Portuguese town of Lourinha, near Lisbon.

Q. Who has won the Mahatma Gandhi Award for promoting peace and human rights?

Ans. Janet Jagan, who is expected to become Guyana's first female Head of State, was awarded the Mahatma Gandhi Award for promoting peace and human rights.

Appointments Etc

APPOINTED, ELECTED ETC

Surya Bahadur Thapa He has been appointed Prime Minister of Nepal

VP Malik He is the new Army Chief of India He succeeded General Shankar Roy Chowdhury.

Kalyan Singh He has been appointed Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh

Vijay Jawaharlal Darda He has been elected President of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS)

Richard Celeste He has been appointed Ambassador of USA to India

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Alyksander Lykashenka President of Belarus

RESIGNED

Lokendra Bahadur Chand Prime Minister of Nepal, after losing a vote of confidence in Parliament.

Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz Prime Minister of Poland

Mayawati Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

DIED

Mobutu Sese Seko President of Zaire
Martika Prasad Koirala Former Prime Minister of Nepal

Chitta Basu Veteran Parliamentarian.
Anoop Kumar Veteran actor and younger brother of Ashok Kumar

Gul Mohammed The world's shortest man.

29—India launches remote sensing satellite IRS-1D.

30—At least 15 civilians are killed and over 30 injured in heavy firing by Pakistani troops in Kargil sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

OCTOBER

3—Canada recalls its envoy to Israel after two agents with Canadian passports are arrested after an attack on Hamas leader Khalid Meshal.

4—The six-month old Nepal coalition government resigns after Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand loses a vote of confidence in Parliament

5—India's most advanced communication satellite, INSAT-2D, is declared inoperable as it loses its earth-lock due to short circuit in a power bus

6—More than 150 LTTE men are reported killed in fresh army attack in Sri Lanka.

—Railways hike freight charges, Indian Airlines too announce increase in fares.

9—USA declares Harkat-ul-Ansar, a Pakistan-based organisation in Jammu and Kashmir, and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as terrorist organisations

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

7—Suspected ultras of the Maoist Communist Centre gun down 10 supporters of CPI(M-L) in South Bihar

9—BJP Chief L.K. Advani and 48 others are charged in Babri Masjid demolition case

12—The Delhi High Court upholds framing of charges against former PM Narasimha Rao and 18 others in the JMM bribery case

—Scotland votes for its own Parliament, signifying a historic break from a 300 year old relationship with the UK.

13—Thousands line the streets of Calcutta, paying their last respects to Mother Teresa, who is buried in a state funeral attended by world dignitaries

14—A fire breaks out at Hindustan Petroleum oil refinery at Vishakhapatnam, killing 19 and injuring 31.

—The Prasar Bharati Act comes into force, raising hopes of greater independence in the functioning of AIR and Doordarshan

—Heavy casualties are reported as the Ahmedabad-Howrah Express plunges into a river in Bilaspur district in Madhya Pradesh.

17—The third round of talks between the foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan end without any progress on bilateral issues, including a mechanism to discuss Kashmir.

20—The four-way Korean peace conference breaks down as North Korea refuses to soften demands.

21—BJP Vice President Kalyan Singh takes over as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh

23—At least 200 people are killed in a night time massacre in Algiers

—The first Clinton-Gujral summit in New York ends with hopes of better relations between India and USA.

26—An Indonesian Garuda airlines A-300 aircraft carrying 234 people crashes in thick haze shortly before landing in Sumatra.

—Prime Minister Gujral asserts that India would not be pressurised in signing the CTBT.

27—At least 29 Indian crew members of a cargo ship are reported missing after a cargo ship sinks in a collision with another cargo vessel off the coast of Malaysia.

MILESTONES

C.N.R. Rao President of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, he won the H.K. Firodia Award for 1997, for his outstanding work in solid state chemistry and surface science.

Vijaypat Singhania Chairman of Raymond's, he is a pilot who once flew Boeing 737 for Alliance Air, the subsidiary of Indian Airlines.

Ayesha Dharker The 20-year old actress who has been cast as a suicide bomber in *The Refugee*, a film to be made by national award winning cinematographer Ramchandani Saraf.



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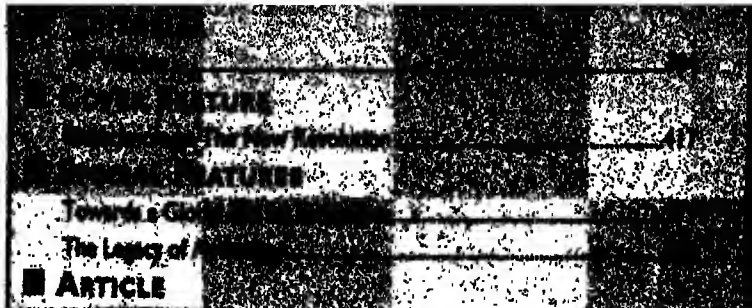
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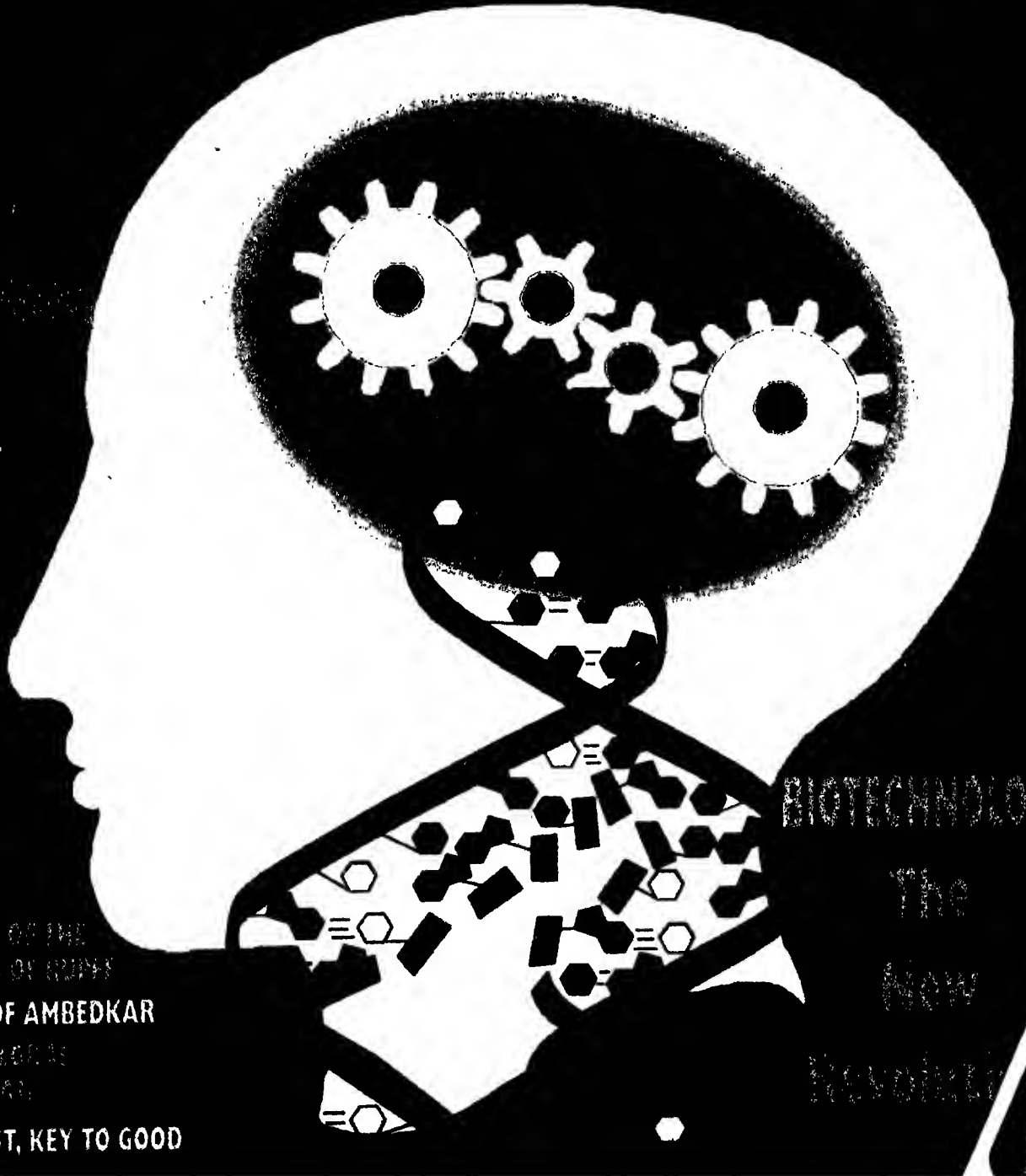
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VIP Vandals

IF at all a proof was needed that our politics is contaminated by people with criminal propensities, it has been provided by VIP vandals who are MLAs in Uttar Pradesh Assembly. The session had been called to establish whether or not Mr Kalyan Singh of BJP had a majority in the House. He won the confidence vote but what happened in the House is nothing short of a stab in the back of democracy.

The earlier revelations by the Election Commission that in Uttar Pradesh an estimated 100 anti-social and criminal groups, with a strength of about 5000, are operating on their behalf, now reads like an understatement!

The sordid spectacle in the Vidhan Sabha shows how hollow and ethically bankrupt our politics have become. Mahatma Gandhi wanted to inject morality into politics. His desire died with the bullets that felled his frail mortal frame. Goons govern now.

The system literally cries for a change. Most "involved" in Hawala case have been let off. None named in Bofors bribery case has been booked, yet. The Mahatma's ardent desire to spiritualize politics has been consigned to the dustbin. We cannot even decriminalize our politics. This proves what Benjamin Tucker has said, "we enact many laws that manufacture criminals, and then a few that punish them." But where are the laws that punish them? Has anyone of the VIP vandals in the UP assembly been identified, much less punished?

The honourable members of the august assembly have

lungs of iron and tongues that drip acid. Yet, they used mikes, chairs and what their itching hands could lay on. They injured those who could not duck in time under the hoods of their desks. Those who escaped hurts, need not exult for democracy and parliamentary norms got deeply hurt!

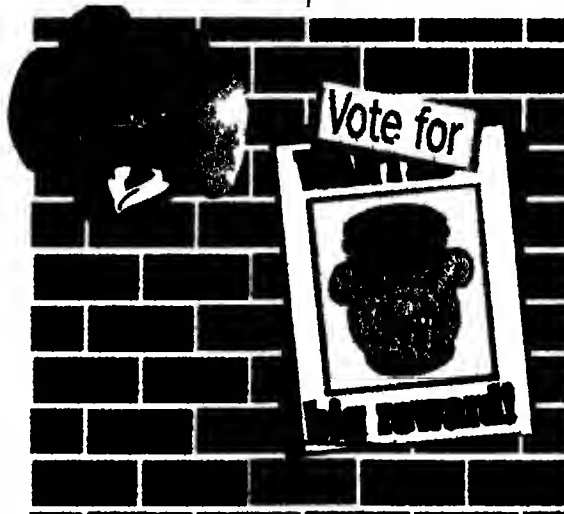
Mr Kalyan Singh won the vote of confidence in a farce. He won more votes than his party had members in the House. There is a difference between a politician who is a gobbler and one who

is a nibbler! The Congress Party which had enjoyed a monopoly of luring MPs and MLAs on lucre-basis, need watch out. The hysterical outpourings of Madam Mayawati and Kanshi Ram are akin to those the deprived! Their howlings remind us of an adage. The wind that does no one good, is an ill-wind!

A lot of political dust has been kicked on the role of the Governor of the State. A man in such a position is put there to govern, not to rule. Gentlemen with a political past need to be watched, and put to their proper place. Plato put it tersely in

the Republic: "Democracy passes into despotism."

The consequent developments in which the Union government, acting on the biased report of the State Governor, had to swallow its own better medicine, further heightens the farce. But for the constitutionally correct intervention of the President, Mr Kalyan Singh would have been ousted and the President's rule imposed on the State. The democratic decibels being raised by the "injured" political parties are akin to the proverbial devil citing scriptures!



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The best two letters of the month, appearing in the box, have been awarded a prize of Rs 100.00 each. Readers are invited to send us their views on topics covered in this issue. You can also e-mail your response to: desh@ch1.vsnl.net.in. The decision of the Editors will be final.

THE TROUBLED NORTH-EAST

The COMPETITION MASTER deserves praise for presenting the real picture of the North-East region in the cover feature of November 97 issue. The government should now be true to its announcements and utilise the changing tide of public opinion to get the people of the North-East into the mainstream. The region is part of India and just a little attention will solve the problem to a very great extent.

N. Chinsum Paite
New Delhi

The problems of North-East were very well covered in your cover feature. It is sad that our leaders are busy in their money-making games and are least worried about the situation in the region. I hope that the government wakes up to its duties and takes a strong stand against terrorism, as also help the youth to come in the mainstream.

Neha Sinha
Patna, Bihar

DIANA AND TERESA

Your magazine, like the others, published columns on both Princess Diana and Mother Teresa. Though Diana's column was in a box, Mother Teresa's was not given prominence. I feel that the world suffered a greater loss in Mother Teresa's death and should have been given more prominence. You could have given them equal importance, at least.

Sumona Ghosh
Ranchi, Bihar

THE CULT OF VIOLENCE

The special feature, "The Cult of Violence", published in your October issue, was really good. Most of us wonder why violence is gaining ground in our society

and why there is so much crime and corruption. It seems that criminals prosper today while honest people cannot even make both ends meet. It is time the pillars of society took heed and addressed the questions raised by you.

Amos Valui
Shillong, Meghalaya

The article brought attention to the direction in which the society is moving in our fiftieth year of independence. The system of governance is borrowed from the British and that is why people cannot participate, except for giving their votes after every few years. Politicians are exploiting this and using the years in office to fill their own pockets.

Surinder Ghuman
Amritsar, Punjab

DISCRETION AND VALOUR

The essay gave us a precept to follow. One really should not lose one's equanimity and temper even when confronted with the most trying situation. Thus, discretion must always temper our more adventurous ambitions.

Vineet Gaba
New Delhi

PRESIDENT'S ROLE

Your expectations in the editorial of September 97 issue, that the President should prove himself to be just, have been met when Mr Narayanan did not agree to impose President's rule in U.P. and the government had to change its decision. All praise for the President, who has held the ideals of democracy alive.

R.L. Gupta
Chandigarh

SUCCESS STORIES

I am glad to inform you that I have secured second position in the Rajasthan Administrative Service (RAS) Exam. The COMPETITION MASTER played a very important role in my success.

Narendra Singh
Jaipur, Rajasthan

I would like to express my grati-

itude to the COMPETITION MASTER for the proper guidance and inspiration which helped me to succeed in the Civil Service Exams. The magazine really helped me to create history by scoring 80% marks in the personality test and interview. I also scored 135 marks out of 200 in the essay, which is again the result of excellent articles featured in your magazine.

Kumar Gyanesh
Noida, U.P.

THE LIMITS OF DIPLOMACY

A diplomat's role is to bring two quarrelling sides on the negotiating table and help save the lives of innocent people who are caught in the crossfire. We cannot, therefore, say that diplomacy is losing its importance. It just has some limitations and the world would do well to recognise them. Without diplomacy, the world would deteriorate into a very unlawful place.

Unmeshwar Vatsa
Bhopal, Bihar

I have been selected as Staff Officer in the RBI. The credit of my success goes to the COMPETITION MASTER, which provided rich material for the preparation of the examination. I have been reading your magazine since 1990.

Shiv Kumar Yadav
Mumbai

How to Use More Mind Power for Success in Competitions

Dear friend,

My name is Raj Bapna. I want to tell you some ideas from my new **surprisingly powerful course** "Raj Bapna's Mind Power Study Techniques".

Why Use Only 10% Mind Power

Yogas have always known that each person's mind is very powerful. The scientists now say that most people use only 10% of their mind power. That up to 90% of mind power remains hidden and unused.

My course teaches you to use part of this 90% to study better to improve your memory and to get success in your exam and competition.

In this way, my techniques will help you in everything you want to study: **Chemistry, English, History, etc.** and for **IAS, PMT, IIT, Board Exams, PO, Bank, UPSC, SSC, etc.** So, your chance of success will greatly improve.

Surprising But True

Consider this: you have been learning many subjects in schools or colleges for 10, or 12, or more years. It is surprising that they do not spend even 1 hour to teach how to use more of your mind power for success.

I spend my full time in researching and teaching how to use more mind power to study better, to remember more and to get success in your competitions.

Not for Everyone

This course is not for those persons who want to get success by magic. It is also not for those who want to get success without work.

It is for that sincere and ambitious person who studies average or more is different, and seriously wants to get success.

Just as a strong foundation helps to build a good building, this course helps you to make the best use of your hard work and studying/coaching.

What Newspapers, Magazines Say

- Simple effective practical techniques to improve overall intelligence and mind power. Even average student can easily understand. *Times of India*
- "Powerful practical easy. It will help all students, bank officials and others appearing for test exams and interviews." *Indian Banks Association Bulletin*

Improve Your Memory Quickly

You will learn many easy techniques to improve your memory in this course. Let me give brief summary of two such techniques here.

Technique 1 The brain has two memory stores: short term and long-term. Research shows that without revision after 24 hours we remember only 18%. After 1 month only 5%. It clearly shows that we must revise. But, most students do not revise systematically, so much of their hard work is wasted. I teach you the powerful techniques: **Systematic Revision** and **"Daily Routine"** so that you can revise and remember more in less time.

Technique 2 Scientific research has proved that for better memory we should take rest and not study continuously for hours. You will learn my technique **"Rest Routine"** to get maximum benefit from the rest. This technique relaxes you, changes your brain waves, and puts you in a "learning state".

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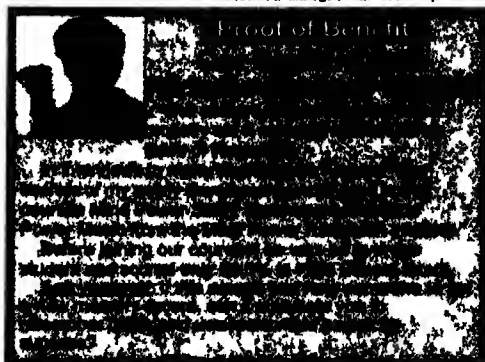
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- 5 Small to moderate improvement in your intelligence
- 6 Set realistically high aims/goals and take your step by step on the road to achieve success
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- 8 Learn exam secrets to get more marks for what you have studied
- 9 Avoid big mistakes that can cause failure

Suppose you improve only 10% in each, then total improvement is $10\% \times 9 = 90\%$. I know you will improve 100% just in reading speed. So, this huge improvement will enormously help you for success. "I worked hard according to your techniques and improved. My parents are very happy. I had never before got distinction, but now I got 78% in Maths and 80% in Science." *—Pankaj Kumar Neak, MS*

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Poverty in Plenty

'Poverty in plenty' may be an expression of contradiction, but as far as the human race is concerned we have more poverty to see and suffer around than any other phenomenon. Whatever achievements of mankind may have been in the areas of development over the ages, the one eye-sore that has remained abhorrent and abominable by all standards is poverty—economic, intellectual and ethical (moral). There is no denying that poverty is a curse for those who suffer it and a blessing for those who sermonise on it. Notwithstanding the fact that religions generally have sung the praise of poverty, and promised the poor the kingdom of heaven, it is a virtual hell that they undergo in their lives spent in slums, hovels, gutters and the like.

Though the modern Messiah, Mother Teresa, loved the poor, she consistently refused to address issues of social justice. Her belief that poverty was a desirable state, non-criticism of the world-order that perpetuated poverty, runs counter to the ground realities that are further compounded by the tortuous trinity—poverty, population and pollution. This tyrannical triangle eloquently tells why South Asia is universally acknowledged as a place of the most wretched, demeaning poverty in the world. When we eulogize the success stories of those who go up the ladder from "rags to riches", we indirectly berate poverty as despicable and dehumanised state of human existence. Who in his senses would covet such life as holds pompous promise of God's grace in heaven but yields virtually no place, pelf and prestige on this planet. Surely, poverty for a political-cum-economic thinker like Marx, was an abject state of helplessness heaped upon those who have nothing to lose but their poverty, if properly united and organised under one banner.

The state of poverty that legendary figures like Raja Harishchander, Mahatma Buddha, Mahatma Gandhi *et al* and an entire tribe of Indian saints and sages, embraced, is entirely different from the depressing depths of deprivation and degradation that millions and millions below the poverty line in India and elsewhere face. Having led the life of self-abnegation himself, Gandhiji was of the firm conviction that there was 'enough in the world for each man's need but not enough for even one man's greed'.

Catchwords and conferences cannot banish poverty. Had it been so simple the *garibi hatao* slogan of 1971 would have accomplished in one country what the United Nations set out to do for the world at the summit for social development in Copenhagen. The summit was intended to come up with a programme of policies, actions and measures towards eradication of poverty, full employment and social integration of the dispossessed and underprivileged. Today in the world, more than a billion people live in miserable poverty, eight million children die every year from curable diseases and at least a third of the poor States' population is undernourished. The British charity organisation, Action aid, has warned that by the end of the century, a quarter of the world's population will be living in abject poverty. The countries where domestic discord prevails in the form of civil wars, riots or other disturbances are the worst hit.

It is a meaningless exercise to discuss poverty eradication and full employment at national and international conferences without reference to who will pay for it in an unequal world. The issue of raising the estimated \$ 235 billion needed to take over one billion people living in abysmal poverty, to a

level where their basic needs can be met, in the next five years, does not figure in the declarations; nor does the issue of creating jobs for the 120 million people unemployed in the world. With economic liberalisation programmes concentrating on a consumer-oriented global market, it is hard to imagine how the problems of global poverty and unemployment are going look like in future.

The resources are not scarce but they are cornered and controlled by the rich. In the opinion of some knowledgeable persons, it is the unsustainable consumption levels of the rich nations that have resulted in the poor being denied access to resources. Who can deny the fact that less than a quarter of the global expenditure on arms would be enough to finance a programme for universal primary health care, vaccination against killer diseases, drinking water and primary education. "Too often assumptions are made about what the poor want or their views are interpreted to such a point that they bear little relationship to the development priorities originally identified by the poor." (Juan Somavia)

All said and done, let us remember what Rishi Vasishtha tells Rama in Yoga Vasishtham: "Poverty is a curse. A very poor person is hardly alive. I see no difference between a poor man and a dead man." Removal of poverty is indeed the prime duty of all rulers at all times.

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THIS MONTH YESTERDAY

December: Before and After Independence

Before Independence

The months of December has been quite eventful in the pre-independence history of our country. The month witnessed events like formation of East India Association by Dadabhai Naoroji on December 1, 1866, meeting of 72 political leaders from the different parts of country at the Sanskrit College Bombay, under the inspiration of A O Hume, to form Indian National Congress, on December 25, 1885, establishment of Belur Math by Swami Vivekananda on December 9, 1898, arrival of King George and Queen Mary in India on December 2, 1911, presentation of Nobel Prize to Dr C V Raman on December 10, 1930 and inauguration of first session of the Constituent Assembly of India in New Delhi on December 9, 1946.

In this section we shall have some glimpses on the 'Revolutionary Nationalism' and 'Butler Committee'

Revolutionary Nationalism

Terrorism, though radically different from the political Extremism of Tilak, was one phase which reverberates in the Indian freedom movement. The motto was simple, 'lay down your life, but first take a life'. Efforts of Barindra Kumar Ghosh and Bhupendra Nath Dutt and their associates, led to establishment of a number of revolutionary societies like *Anusilam Samiti*, which had branches in Calcutta and Dacca. Taking cues from secret societies of Russia and Italy, its programmes were aimed at creating wholesale terrorism. During the months of December, the society registered two predominant activities. On December 6, 1907, an attempt was made to blow up the train in which the Lieutenant Governor was

travelling. On December 23, 1907, Allen, former District Magistrate of Dacca, survived bullet injuries. Notably, I.P. Saunders was shot dead by Rajguru and Bhagat Singh to avenge the murder of Lala Lajpat Rai. Incidentally, it was on December 19, 1927 that, Pt Ram Prasad Bismil, one of the revolutionaries of the famous Kakori Case, was hanged.

Butler Committee

Before the independence of India, there were a large number of Indian States. These States varied in sizes, revenues and internal administrative controls. However, all Indian Rulers were under the command of Political Department. To make suggestions for more satisfactory adjustments of existing economic relations between the Indian States and British India, Lord Birkenhead, Secretary of State for India, appointed a 3-member committee on December 16, 1927. The committee was headed by Harcourt Butler, while its other members were Prof W.S. Holdsworth and S.C. Peel. Prominently, the Committee recommended that the Viceroy and not the Governor-General-in-Council should be the agent of the Crown in dealing with the States.

After Independence

Some of the important events that took place during the months of December include Yahya Khan's accepting conditions laid down by India to end the 14 days old Indo-Pak war on December 17, 1971; setting record of 109 runs for the 9th wicket by Ravi Shastri and Madan Lal on December 28, 1981, Rajiv Gandhi joining world leaders to receive 'Beyond War' award on December 14, 1985; and pulling down of 430-year-old Babri Masjid in Ayodhya on

December 6, 1992

In this section we shall focus on 'Amendments to the Indian Constitution' and 'VP Singh becoming Prime Minister'

Amendments

The Fifth amendment to the Indian Constitution took place on December 24, 1955. It made a change in Article 3. It provided that no bill shall be introduced in either House of the Parliament except on the recommendation of the President. It also empowered the President to fix a time limit for State Legislatures to express their views on proposed Central laws affecting their areas, boundaries, etc. Later, the Ninth amendment took place on December 28, 1960. It was an amendment to the first Schedule to give effect transfer of certain territories to Pakistan in pursuance of agreements entered into between the Governments of India and Pakistan in September, 1958.

VP Singh becomes PM

Despite anti-Congress wave in north, Rajiv Gandhi-led Congress gained substantial number of seats in South in the 9th Lok Sabha. It was an election in which for the first time the 18-year-olds were given the right to vote. Congress won 193 seats but Rajiv Gandhi did not stake claim to form the Government. Subsequently Janata Dal, which with 141 seats had emerged as the second largest party in the elections, formed Government with the support of BJP from outside. On December 2, 1989 Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Finance Minister and later Defence Minister in the Rajiv Gandhi's Government, became first Indian Prime Minister to lead a 'minority government'.

Model Paragraphs

"Fortune's like glass, most brittle when most bright."

Brittle as glass and freakish as fortune, the history of good-luck vis-a-vis man on this planet is both interesting as well as instructive. When fortune sits favourably on a man's horoscope and its manifestation becomes bright on his face, the danger of its being fragile becomes too apparent to ignore. When all tongues wag and talk of someone's uncommon and unexpected good stars shining bright, it is more an expression of jealousy than goodwill. Just as wealth and beauty invite the evil intention and attention of many an onlooker, similarly a lucky person becomes highly susceptible to intrigue and innuendo of both fair weather friends and fuming foes. Fortune, like some mobile fragrance, is seldom static or stationary. Dame luck is no body's permanent pal nor is it steadfast while distributing gifts of pelf and prestige. Nebulous like the petal of a flower, fortune is highly brittle and needs calculated care and courtesy if it is not to turn the holder's head or render him a plaything in the hands of his admirers and adversaries.

"Contemplation is a kind of action."

Contemplation has many colours and connotations but its action-form is much different than that of a physical or perceptible one. Contemplation, coupled with concentration, covers a course of action that takes place on human psyche, better known as the mental plane. The corner stone of all contemplative activity is the control that mind exerts over its other faculties. Once the mind is at rest and free from

trivial or telling tribulations, it acquires a state of serenity that saints and seers have always craved for. The silent activity that stirs the human mind in a contemplative mood, acquired after hard discipline over one's physical and sensual emotions, is the sure way to experience both a blessing and the bliss. Contemplation is a kind of action that brooks no haste or hassle because its arena of movement is mind and its goal is based more on intuition or inner wisdom. To condemn contemplation as escapism from concrete action is to miss the point around which our emotional and spiritual search revolves and offers insight into the shape of things to come. The place of contemplation and concentration in human life is too precious to be priced adequately and accurately.

"One crowded hour of glorious life is worth an age without a name."

Action-packed life, though short in span, outshines long years of inactivity and lethargy. A lily or a rose of a day is much brighter and colourful in its brief existence than an oak tree that lives for so many years but fails to serve any memorable function except that of its woodlogs being burnt or cast aside as something inferior in content and incompatible in the overall schemes of things. History is replete with examples of such men and women as embraced the gallows in the prime of their lives but did not desert the cause, nor did they fail to uphold the commitment, for fear or favour or both. Just as brevity is the soul of wit, similarly, even a short period of living with pointed purpose and pristine principles is more glorious and glaring than a long, languid and lack-lustre existence. Exceptions apart, a

person, moved and motivated by a lofty mission, achieves both worldly and godly honours if he makes the right choice and treads those paths that are uncommon and beset with chagrins and challenges, unmindful of the dangers to his youth and yearning instincts. 'Those who die young are dear to God' is an old belief. And, those who suffer and sacrifice the prime of their life for something higher and nobler in passion and pursuit, become an example for others.

"The best government is the least government."

—Calvin Coolidge

Just as too many cooks spoil the broth, in the same vein, too much government results in confusion and corruption. For the people at large it is the quality of governance that matters. If the government of the day has all its fingers in the pie and claims to deliver the goods, it certainly finds itself in the bind with neither good governance nor accountability being its hall-marks. The least government means less interference and less involvement in matters that are not its primary concern. The salient features of a good administration are the rule of law, peace and prosperity and, above all, the creation of an atmosphere where socio-economic activities take place unhindered. In the field of defence and foreign affairs, its role is paramount, but if it also enjoins upon itself the duties of a producer, trader and retailer, it becomes inefficient and ineffectual. The axiom: 'The more, the better' may be applicable in other situations, but as far as the structure and stability of government is concerned, the golden principle of 'least government is the best government' should prevail.

Implications of the Devaluation of Rupee

It all started with the recent statement of the Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) that the rupee was overvalued. Exchange value of the rupee for dollar, which was stable at around Rs 35 70 during the past one year, started changing thereafter and by the end of August the value went down to around Rs 36 40 per dollar. Many described this as undeclared devaluation of rupee. Following ripples in the economic circles, the RBI had no option but to intervene by selling dollars in the domestic market. The big question is—whether the fall in rupee's value is advantageous to the growing economy of the country?

Devaluation: The Concept

EXCHANGE rate management system differs in every economic system. While the capitalistic economies of the West rely upon the market-driven economic system and allow the forces of demand and supply of the foreign exchange to determine the exchange rate system, controlled and developing economies generally follow the regulated system under which the value of domestic currency is either pegged to a "basket" of a few foreign exchanges, or the value of domestic currency is fully controlled and determined by the central bank of the concerned government.

Prior to 1991, India followed the same policy like most of the developing nations. However, the fall of erstwhile USSR in early nineties taught many lessons to the world community, particularly in the foreign exchange management. The sudden fall of Russian rouble exposed the weaknesses of the controlled management system. In 1991-92, India decided to liberalise the economy under the process of structural reforms.

The term devaluation, in its true sense, was particularly relevant to India during the pre-reforms era, while the cur-

rent slide of rupee vis-a-vis dollar may more appropriately be called depreciation in value.

In simple words, devaluation means lowering of the external value of domestic currency by an official act. It is pertinent to add that devaluation is reduction of external value of a currency after a duly considered decision to this effect is taken by the government. For example, devaluation of Indian rupee by 57.7 per cent in 1966, vis-a-vis US dollar and pound sterling, was one of the maximum ever devaluations made by the Government of India. The reasons why devaluation is resorted to are many. It is aimed at adjusting the real value of domestic currency. Secondly, by providing incentive to the exporters and disincentives to the importers, the devaluation is also used as a mechanism to correct the balance of trade favourably in the short run.

However, there are many factors which determine the success of devaluation to correct the balance of trade. Firstly, a fairly elastic demand for imports and exports would generally have a positive impact on the balance of trade in general. In case of inelastic demand, the effect may be reverse. Secondly, the devaluation theory also presumes that there are no cost changes during the post devaluation period. If a devaluation is followed by similar action by the other countries also, the positive effect of the devaluation may be nullified.

With the liberalisation of the exchange management regime in India, technically speaking the devaluation is no longer important. It is, however, replaced by depreciation. The foreign exchange rate control method prevailing in India is in-between the two extremes of complete control and completely free market-driven system. Free convertibility of rupee, to some extent, is a

misnomer. While market forces of demand and supply are also in force, the RBI actively keeps trading the dollar to keep the value of rupee at the desired levels.

Pros and Cons

THE recent depreciation of rupee value invited mixed opinions. While the trade organisation and businessmen hailed the adjustment of real value of rupee, the economists were guarded about their reaction. Dwindling exports during the recent past had necessitated the depreciation of Indian rupee. There appear to be no two views about the fact that at present rupee is overvalued by about 15 per cent. To illustrate, during the past two years, the inflation rate has been around 8 per cent. In other words, Indian rupee's purchasing power has gone down by over 16 per cent, causing real depreciation in its real value. Internationally also this value has gone down appreciably, as inflation rate in USA is significantly lower than that in India.

However, exports are affected by a host of other factors too. Cost of production is one of the factors. It is primarily the cost competitiveness which has bearing on the total volume of exports. In addition, quality of products is yet another factor. Sales and marketing effort is also important. Last, but certainly not the least, economic conditions, policies and prevailing state of infrastructure also play an important role in determining the export level.

Depreciated value of domestic currency is important, but only in the initial years. This acts as a lever to kick-start the export growth. For the trade and industry, it is a welcome situation temporarily. Also, due to the fact that foreign borrowing would become more expensive, more trad-

ers would turn to internal borrowing, resulting in significant gains for the domestic banking sector. It is also realised that due to debacle in East Asian nations like Malaysia and Thailand, where local currencies are under pressure, foreign funds already invested in these countries are likely to move to Indian market. Lastly, the initial thrust to exports may allow the Indian exporters to enter the higher value segment of market and after absorbing elementary manufacturing skills and knowledge of foreign markets, may become capable of entering more such markets.

It is believed that rate of inflation also determines the pace at which the domestic currency depreciates. All the developing countries have higher rates of growth as well as inflation, when compared to the developed West. Greater mobility of capital may assist in reducing this risk but lack of adequate mobility of capital in India is well known. Hence, with growing levels of development, the risk of depreciation of currency is inescapable for India. Also, the economy suffers when devaluation is postponed and the country tries to maintain the artificial value of its own currency. Under such a situation speculative moves cause undue harm to the system.

There are, however, several disadvantages too. The gains in exports would be only ephemeral in nature. The increased cost of imports would result in higher prices of the inputs as well as higher prices in the factor market. As a result, cost of production would rise, neutralising the effect of raised level of exports. If depreciation, or devaluation, is also resorted to by other countries the advantage gained earlier is lost. Secondly, the foreign inflow of funds would immensely suffer a setback. The expectation of huge sums of foreign loans coming to the infrastructure sector would also suffer.

The policy of devaluating and selling more abroad has also come under fire from certain quarters. It is argued that after devaluation, we sell our goods cheaper and that is why we are able to sell more. For example a product worth \$ 10 would

now be sold at \$ 9 and getting the price advantage we would sell more. Hence, the overall exports may grow but the margin earned per unit would fall. This is under a situation where our own prices would rise but on the contrary, own products sold abroad are going cheaper.

If the depreciation is not arrested, the psychological fear would continue that rupee would fall anytime in future. This would not only reduce the availability of capital for investment but would also increase the cost of foreign funds. External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) are one area where the impact on Indian companies is going to be substantial. Debts taken by companies as ECBs are in foreign currency and the depreciation directly enhances the cost of borrowing. Oil import of the country also soars as a result of depreciation.

While considering in totality it appears that devaluation may be a necessary evil in a developing country. In the present context, the depreciation of Indian rupee appears to be the need of the hour. Notwithstanding its adverse effects, the action of readjustment of the value of rupee may have to be accepted as such. Infrastructure in India would still take some time to come upto the international standards. Moreover, the marketing capabilities and quality of Indian products lack competitiveness at present. Productivity levels are low and it does not seem likely that India would catchup with its western competitors in the next 5 to 10 years. Till then, to gain temporary advantages in the foreign markets, it may have to resort to devaluation of currency (or say depreciation) to re-adjust its real value.

Conclusion

LIBERALISED foreign exchange regime has its own advantages and disadvantages. While it can be said that the market forces determine the exchange rate, yet the Central Bank, with its operations of sale and purchase of foreign currencies, can hold the rate to a particular level. The depreciation has both bright and gloomy aspects. Many of them are self-contradictory. While the domestic Banking Sector would

gain by getting more opportunities of lending to the business sectors, at the same time, foreign loan becoming expensive would be restrained automatically. While the exports would improve temporarily, the cost of production in the long run would increase, nullifying the initial gains. The initial exports may benefit the economy, but the increased price level may demand more sacrifice of resources from the consumers.

To reduce the need of depreciation of rupee in future, the government has to take certain policy measures which can improve the productivity levels in the industry. This calls for improved infrastructure, better levels of HRD, availability of easy credit, improved market mechanism, rationalised tax structures and replacement of obsolete plant and machinery. Improved levels of productivity would mean reduction in cost of production, adding the required competitive edge to Indian exports and reducing the dependence on excessive imports. The influx of foreign companies can be used as good sources of technical know-how and foreign market information.

But the effort of improving the productivity is not easy. There are many institutional barriers. Infrastructure is so poor that the cost of taking a product to a port and loading it properly costs a lot more. The time taken in this process is also much more than taken in the developed West. Labour markets also offer a stiff challenge in India. There is a resistance on part of the labours to adopt any practice which may result in reduction in the use of labour in future.

It may be called devaluation or depreciation, but relative fall in the international value of domestic currency is an inevitable phenomenon amongst the developing nations. It can be delayed a bit, but cannot be avoided. It is better if the rupee is allowed to determine its own level, rather than the RBI dictating and controlling the exchange rate. If appropriate policy measures are adopted, the negative effects of devaluation can easily be avoided. Rather than condemning the devaluation, it is better to use its plus points for uplifting the economy.

Towards a Global Ban on Landmines

The Nobel Peace Prize this year has gone to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and its coordinator Jody Williams. This has brought attention to the world-wide campaign to ban the pernicious weapons which kill or maim thousands of victims, including unsuspecting women and children. On September 18, 1997, a convention was signed in Oslo on the prohibition of use, stockpiling, production and transfer of mines. Coming days after her death, the convention was a fitting tribute to the memory of Princess Diana, who had lent support to the campaign.

The problem is indeed huge—some 100 million uncleared landmines are estimated to lie in the fields and along the roads of one-third of the countries in the developing world. These weapons continue their deadly task even after the war is over and are indiscriminate in their targets.

This feature examines the problem and the efforts to ban the deadly weapons and the response of world governments. In spite of the recent successes, there is still a long way to go for a total ban.

A mine is a deadly weapon. It is a small container filled with explosive, placed in the ground, which explodes when something goes over or near it. It can destroy unsuspecting enemy troops or vehicles that pass over it. Retreating troops are known to mine the countryside out of frustration or vengeance, where they lie undetected till they blow off a leg of a farmer or of a child who may be playing near it. Mines are, therefore, pernicious weapons, causing untold misery for civilians.

There are estimated to be 100 million uncleared landmines planted around the globe, causing a daily threat to people of Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia, Cambodia, Croatia, Iraq, Mozambique, Nicaragua, So-

malia and other countries. They claim 500 victims every week. The lucky ones die, but most others are maimed for life. Most mines contain iron pieces and other harmful material as well, which get embedded in the body. The limbs of the surviving victims have to be amputated. In the past few decades, mine injuries and deaths have totalled tens of thousands, making them weapons of mass destruction in slow motion.

Mines are being manufactured by more than 50 countries. The leading producers are China, Italy, Russia and the USA. More than 200 million anti-personnel landmines (APMs) are estimated to have been produced in the last 25 years. There are more than 350 different types of mines; and even if no more are laid, they will continue to maim and kill well into the next century. The problem is huge, since it costs 100 times more to detect and remove a mine than to produce it. The United Nations has estimated that the clearance cost of one mine is about \$ 1,000, and war ravaged countries can ill afford this.

Killers of Civilian Populations

At risk are farmers or refugees who return to their lands after a war. Large tracts of productive land are laid waste if there is a fear of mines. This further affects efforts to rebuild economies. Ironically, though the problem is huge, more mines are laid daily. It has taken a long campaign to bring to the problem the attention it deserves. Efforts of Princess Diana played a crucial role in bringing the world attention to the problem. The efforts of Jody Williams and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) won them the Nobel Peace Prize this year, but more important is the fact that the world is finally

getting down to doing something about an evil problem.

Children are among the main sufferers. In December 1993, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution to carry out a study on the impact of armed conflict on children. The resolution was a clear recognition by the international community of the catastrophic conditions to which children have been and continue to be exposed, both as targets and perpetrators of the atrocities of war. Further, it called international attention to the ever increasing number of conflicts involving and adversely affecting civilian populations.

The Study on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children, the first of its kind in the history of the United Nations, seeks to demonstrate the necessity of adopting effective measures for the protection of the rights of children who are victims of armed conflicts, and to stimulate greater international action. It will establish an important precedent in the area of human rights, and will also serve to promote the terms, provisions and effectiveness of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Study will make recommendations for action by the international community in four areas: a) The relevance and adequacy of existing standards, b) The re-enforcement of preventive measures, c) The protection of children in situations of armed conflict; including the indiscriminate use of all weapons of war, especially anti-personnel land mines, and d) The promotion of physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration.

Landmines Treaty

THE efforts of the ICBL helped bring focus on the problem. Many countries

SPECIAL FEATURE

agreed that the weapons should be banned. This resulted in a landmines treaty which now awaits ratification.

The convention prohibiting the use of landmines was held in Oslo on September 18, 1997, just a few days after the death of Princess Diana. It prohibits nations to develop, produce, stockpile or transfer landmines. Nations would also have to destroy all APMs with them and clear the mined areas within ten years of the treaty coming into force. The Convention will be open for signatures on December 3-4, 1997 at Canada and at the UN, until its entry into force. A review conference would be held five years after the entry into force, to be convened by the Secretary General of the United Nations. With the convention, the world has moved a step ahead to solve the landmines problem, but it is essential that most nations, and at least the major world producers, sign it. The treaty can come into effect if 40 nations ratify it.

The USA has, however, refused to sign the treaty. It wants that landmine use along the border between North and South Korea be exempted, at least for the time being. There are 37,000 troops in the area and the country wants that it be allowed to use anti-personnel and anti-tank mines there. President Clinton will undoubtedly face pressure on this, especially since Russia changed its stand and began supporting the ban. India and China have also held back to be able to use mines to protect their borders.

ICBL and its Accomplishments

JODY Williams started working for the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation in 1991 to form an anti-mine coalition. Her efforts resulted in forming the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, a coalition of many anti-mine groups.

The campaign that led to the treaty was not top down, but became a global cause starting from the sufferings of ordinary people. Some governments are reluctant to sign the treaty because of military considerations but what is forgotten is that

mines are used in guerrilla warfare and ethnic conflicts as well. These are cheap weapons and can be planted by anyone, to remain hidden threats till they explode on an unsuspecting passer-by. As long as the mines remain, refugees and farmers cannot till their land nor can lasting peace return. Heart wrenching images of maimed children have emerged from countries suffering from this plague. Surely, the armed forces can make do with something else for their security rather than stand in the way of the international ban of this weapon.

It goes to the credit of ICBL that in just six years, it has been able to get world opinion on its side. Over 50 countries have prohibited exports of landmines and 15 have begun or completed the destruction of their stockpiles. In March, 1995, Belgium became the first country to ban landmines. Austria, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland have since followed suit. In September, 1996, six Central American governments announced their intention to make the re-

gion the world's first "mine free" zone. It is reported that 150 nations actually support the ban on landmines. The convention thus has a very good chance of being ratified in December, 1997.

The ICBL has been praised by numerous governments and UN agencies for being the driving force in the spectacular success of the movement to ban landmines. It is now a coalition of 1,000 groups from different spheres—bringing together humanitarian, human rights, peace, veterans, medical, religious, environmental and women's groups. The work of the ICBL does not finish with the ban or signing of the treaty: it must now monitor the treaty and build up programmes for mine clearance and victim assistance.

With the signing of the treaty, the world has moved a step closer to a ban on landmines. For the victims, it will be no small consolation that the world is doing something to stop the manufacture of the weapons so that others may not suffer a similar fate.

The Landmine Problem

About 26,000 people are maimed or killed every year by landmines. The first soldiers to die in Bosnia and Vietnam were killed by mines. It is estimated that one-third of the US casualties during the Gulf War and Vietnam war were due to mines. UN peacekeeping force in Bosnia also suffered many casualties because of these weapons.

From 1969 to 1992, the US exported 4.4 million landmines. US supplied mines have been found in Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Iraq, Laos, Lebanon, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Somalia and Vietnam. Some 47 US companies have been involved in the manufacture of mines and 17 of these have agreed to renounce future involvement.

The estimated 100 million mines that lie around countries is not the worst in history. In World War II, the Soviet Union lay 222 million mines on its territory and throughout Eastern Europe.

The biggest mine producers are Russia and China, followed by Iran, North Korea and Pakistan. India, Israel and Egypt are the next largest producers. With Western nations leaving the business, a lot of mines are now being produced in the Third World. They are also cheap, making them the preferred weapon in ethnic strife and guerrilla warfare. Most of the mines are available at less than \$50 each. Some Chinese models are available for just \$3 each.

The biggest single exporter is Norinco, the Chinese military owned arms supplier. The company whose mines are found most around the world is Valsella Meccotecnica of Italy. It stopped exporting mines about two years ago.

More than 80 per cent of landmine casualties take place in three countries: Angola, Afghanistan and Cambodia.

The Legacy of Ambedkar

It is easy to become a leader of the lower castes these days: announce reservations, berate everyone else and easier still, install hundreds of statues of Ambedkar. Whether the lower castes benefit from such schemes is extremely doubtful, but symbols have indeed become very important in modern-day India, replacing the desire to do anything meaningful. Caste politics rule the day, with politicians paying lip service to Ambedkar, in the hope of cornering the vote bank constituted by the lower castes. Whether it was political opportunism displayed by VP Singh or the facility of ticketless rail travel introduced by Ram Bilas Paswan, the idea is the same—corner the votes by some short-term measures without trying to change society.

This feature examines the legacy of Ambedkar at a time when Dalits face a leadership crisis. Betrayed by its own leaders and used in the game of electoral politics, the community must grope with the fractured legacy and give direction to its growing assertiveness.

TAGORE expressed the hope that freedom would mean living in a place where "the mind is without fear". There was also the hope that differences of caste would vanish. Fifty years on, those hopes stand belied. Instead of a caste-less society, differences have become hardened and growing militancy on both sides is claiming lives. At many places, the lower castes continue doing the menial jobs that they were doing centuries ago and are subject to much abuse. In Bihar, the community of Musahars, reportedly, has little to eat but crop pests.

On the other end of the scale, people working in public sector organisations and the government live in virtual fear of their lower caste colleagues: reservations make it impossible to get promotions, even if the higher positions lie vacant. One unsubstantiated complaint by the lower caste employee will result in jail for the higher caste

employee and these offences are non-bailable. In States like Uttar Pradesh, one may be transferred merely for belonging to a higher caste.

This was surely not the dream of our founding fathers. Yet, casteist politics has made everyone a loser in India. Leaders of the lower castes wear caste on their sleeve and waste the country's resources in the name of uplifting the downtrodden. Other parties see them as vote banks and continue to pay lip service. Neither has done anything to change social attitudes or work for the long-term benefit of the disadvantaged.

Approach of Gandhi and Ambedkar

THE questionable legacy of Ambedkar is evident in the bankruptcy of dalit leadership. Perhaps, recognising the insincerity of politicians, the community has not put its faith in any national leader. There is no single party that can claim to represent the community. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has increased its percentage of votes from 3.54% in 1991 to 8.18% in 1996 but its antics in Uttar Pradesh has not endeared itself to the people. Painting itself as a regional party, it distanced itself from the Mumbai riots, which had caused tension among the dalits. In Maharashtra, the Republican Party of India is of no consequence while in other States, mainstream parties try to woo the dalit vote bank.

Though the rise of the BSP in UP, and pockets of MP and Punjab, is described as an upsurge, political parties have damaged the Dalit movement. Politicians like Kanshu Ram and Mayawati have used caste factor to whip up passions in the community to serve their own ends, without doing anything for the community.

The roots of the disarray lie in the short-term thinking and emphasis on sym-

bolism by dalit leaders. Arun Shourie in his recent book, *Worshipping False Gods*, describes the difference in Gandhiji's way of inducting dalits into the mainstream and Ambedkar's way. The book has generated controversy because it shows that Ambedkar was a vehement opponent of the freedom struggle. Without going into the controversy, let us see what light it sheds on the difference of approach of the two leaders in solving the problem of untouchability.

While addressing *Harijans*, for example, Gandhi would always counsel *Harijans* about the things that they must do: pay attention to bodily hygiene, give up liquor, give up eating carrion meat and to learn to read and write. To Hindus he would say that there was no sanction for the practices they adopted: he said that if any scripture sanctioned a thing like untouchability, it should just be burnt. The idea was to reform both so that the disadvantaged group could be accepted and integrated in society.

In contrast, the way of Ambedkar—which has persisted to this day—was diametrically opposite. He said that the condition of the dalits was bad because of the conspiracies of the higher castes, that they were held down through their perfidy. The result was trampling upon anyone whom the leaders of dalits dub as high caste. The "slogan-cum-stampede" philosophy results in verbal terrorism and physical assault, a philosophy made into a fine art by dalit leaders today.

Questionable Legacy

IT is easy to see which is long term solution to remove untouchability and other evils of caste. While one wanted a complete integration of the downtrodden in society, the other favoured nuisance mongering. Yet, the dalit leadership has opted

for the short-term latter approach and it is no wonder that the *dalit* leadership is in tatters today. The way for proper upliftment, and subsequently political power, is Gandhi's way, the very man that they attack verbally.

There were three elements of Ambedkar's strategy. First, that violent struggles be waged which would ensure civil rights for the untouchables. Second, that equality of opportunity be enforced through reservations. He said that seats must be reserved in all branches in the Executive. Third, he insisted that Scheduled Castes must have separate settlements throughout the country.

It is easy to see how flawed the thinking was. Can violent struggles remove untouchability in the country? Can slogan-shouting and verbal terrorism really serve the cause of the downtrodden? In following Ambedkar's method, what is conveniently forgotten is that two wrongs do not make a right. While the historical fact is accepted that the lower castes were badly treated, can we move towards a healthy society by reversing the atrocities? Surely a class struggle is not the answer. Nor can the problem be solved by separate settlements of Scheduled Castes. One method is to integrate them in society.

Similarly, reservations are no solution either. These have resulted in mediocrity and repudiation of standards. Shourie writes that the legacy is evident in the *dalit* journals, with their casteist reductionism and with their abuse. Everything is reduced to being instruments of the Brahmin-Bania ruling class and the result is that vulgarity is a right, intimidation is argument and ignorance is proof. "The consequences are before us", says Shourie. "This reasoning has become the rationale for trampling upon civil rights of anyone whom these leaders of dalits dub as high caste or as the spokesman or agent of the higher castes."

How hypocritical this legacy is can be seen by the fact that so many of our leaders spend lakhs of rupees of tax-payers' money on their medical treatment abroad because they do not trust the hospitals in the country, manned as they are with mediocre doctors from the reservation quota. If there was just a little honesty, they would have preferred to get

treatment at a government hospital, where millions of poor patients must get treatment from mediocre doctors who gained entry because of caste. If the doctors are not good enough for the leaders, why should they treat the poor people whose cause the leaders so vehemently espouse?

Many Worlds

THE caste system in India is not a fight between one class and the other. It is more a fight of beliefs and attitudes. In trying to solve the problem, our leaders have created different worlds. To the rat eaters of Bihar and millions of poor *dalits*, reservations and statues are meaningless. In cities, where economic standing is more important, caste distinctions may have vanished, if it was not for the rabble rousing leaders.

The situation is not as simple as foreign magazines would like to depict—that India's angry untouchables are attacking the caste system. Violence will only beget violence. It will certainly do no good for the untouchables or the downtrodden. Unless they are integrated into society, these tensions will only increase but not lead to any solution.

Increasing reservations and undertaking superficial measures will only harden attitudes. Nor can the problem be solved by the Mayawati brand of social justice, which draws its inspiration from the Ambedkar thinking. Rather than integrate the *dalits* into society, it will further isolate them. The backlash may start in the villages, where the locals will enforce their own brand of justice. We may thus be heading for great violence in society, if these tendencies are not checked.

It has to be accepted that the high and the low castes are part of a larger canvas that make us all Indians. The right thing to do is to erase differences and find a common identity of being Indians. The Ambedkar legacy, followed by short-sighted politicians, is to do just the opposite. They want differences to persist so that the politics of vote-banks can be played. It is time that the *dalits* recognised this and got down to exposing

ing the leaders who are misguiding the community.

Future of the dalit movement

WILL the dalits realise the perfidy of their leaders or will they try to integrate with society? Perhaps lessons can be drawn from other countries. In South Africa and other nations, apartheid became defunct. The blacks were integrated into society because both sides changed themselves and were able to overcome racial prejudices. In the US, there is hardly a politician who carries the tag of race on his sleeve as do politicians of India.

The politicians of India, on the other hand, foster racial differences and prejudices. They make a fetish out of "class struggle". This is a conspiracy to keep the downtrodden apart and not integrate into society, as the blacks have done in USA. The politics of vote banks will undoubtedly work against the *dalits* and certainly not favour a homogenous society.

What the rabble rousing leaders and their followers do not realise is that when standards and institutions are destroyed, the whole of society suffers. And since the lower castes are weaker than the others, they are left more vulnerable and exposed. The railway minister may encourage ticketless travel in the name of social justice, but everyone suffers when the railway network collapses or is plagued with accidents. The poor, who rely on railways for commuting to work, may have to walk while those who can afford it will only find alternative means of transport.

The Ambedkar thinking is thus a flawed one. His legacy, as followed by *dalit* leaders today, will further fracture society and may lead to class wars. On the other hand, if *dalits* are integrated into society, there would be lesser violence and more co-existence. In the modern world, there is no place for caste or racial differences—what matters is the capability of a person and his contribution to society. Only if the leaders begin to understand that, will the country move towards being a place where one can live with pride and without fear.

Should Companies Submit To Terrorist Demands?

The corporate world has been shocked by revelations that the respected business house of the Tatas has been involved in funding terrorists and even having secret meetings with them. The Prime Minister asserted that nobody would be allowed to fund anti-national organisations. As allegations flew against the beleaguered Tata Tea, it was conveniently forgotten that the company had not willingly funded the terrorist organisation but was forced to deal with it as its executives had been under threat. Should the company have exposed its employees to danger? In a State where the law and order situation was non-existent, what was the company to do?

In this issue, we discuss a topic that suddenly has become very important. If a company submits to terrorist demands for the sake of its employees, should it be prosecuted for "funding" terrorists?

Mr A The controversy of Tata Tea is high on everybody's minds these days. Almost every newspaper has commented on it. Many have felt that the Tatas had no right to submit to the demands of the ULFA and that since it has done so, the company should be prosecuted. The issues are deeper than that, because I don't think any company would willingly be involved in funding terrorists. One can do business only in normal times, when there is no law and order problem. Assam has virtually no law and order and when company officials started getting threatened, what could the company do? It is impossible for anyone to work if constant threats and fear is the order of the day. Law and order is the responsibility of the State. In this case, that responsibility was almost completely ignored, allegedly because the government was full of ULFA sympathisers. Under the circumstances, the company could only do two things:

pay the terrorists or close shop and leave the State. Though the second option might have taught the State government and the terrorists a lesson, that is hardly an option available to a businessman. Tata Tea was pragmatic and negotiated with the terrorists. It cannot be said that the company is anti-national or that they were supporting the cause. The company is a victim rather than supporter of terrorism.

Mr B You are right to a very great extent. But whatever may have been the compulsions, I feel that companies should not negotiate with anti-national forces. If threats are received, it should ask for security. Closing shop is certainly not viable and I would not recommend that. But it should put the State government in the picture rather than negotiate with terrorists on its own. If this continues, there is no stopping the terrorists in other States. They will know that they can easily target corporate houses and get the money, no questions asked. Just imagine the consequences of that: the country would head towards different directions and each region will have separatist elements who have unlimited supply of money from companies.

Mr C I would like to ask you what any company could have done in these circumstances. Extortion is a big business in India and people have been kidnapped even from the country's capital. What do people do then—they quietly pay up and secure the safety of their loved ones. They do not go to the police, as people have stopped trusting them or are afraid that information could leak out from the police station. The success rate of the police in solving kidnappings is quite bad and, generally

speaking, the force is corrupt and slothful. To say that the company should have gone to the State government or to the police is easier said than done, especially in a State where sympathisers of insurgents exist at every level. In the absence of law and order, the terrorists think of extortion as a tax, which they legitimately charge. So, any company caught in such a situation has no choice but to pay up. Many other tea companies also paid up in Assam, but they were careful not to leave any records, unlike the Tatas, which went about doing things in a transparent manner. Should they be penalised for doing so? I don't think so. Moreover, to call it as "funding" of anti-national forces is wrong. They were blackmailed.

Mr D The problem really goes much beyond one company and one State. Let us think of the country as a whole. As you rightly mentioned, extortion cases are increasing everywhere. So is other crime. Naxalism, insurgency and separatist movements are raising their heads in many parts of the country, because of lack of governance by elected representatives, who are more interested in making money for themselves. People feel disillusioned by our democratic set-up and their frustration finds a way out in unlawful activities. The problem is compounded by increasing criminalisation of politics, where criminal elements have found place in the government. This was highlighted by the Vohra Committee report, which has been expectedly consigned to dust. If you say that companies should not pay up and close down instead, there would be no growth in the country. Slowly, all companies would shut down and leave the country. Secondly, if you say that compa-

DEBATE: DISCUSSION

nies should go to the government, they will be endangering the lives of their own employees, since criminals who head the government will be able to get information about the plans of the company. It is a Catch-22 situation, where the victim is caught between two sets of people, each trying to exploit him.

Mr E You are right, because no matter what the company does, it will be criticised. If it does not pay and the employees are killed (since it is not possible to provide security to all employees at all times), you would blame the company for letting its employees die. If it does pay, you say it is funding anti-national activities. Put yourself in the position of an employee of Tata Tea or any tea company in Assam. Would you still say that the company should not pay and endanger your life? I do not think so. The debate, therefore, should not be about what the victims should or should not do, but what the government should do. I find it very strange, for example, that everybody is talking about funding by the victim company. Why is nobody talking about the ULFA? Should the government not take action against them and flush them out? What the government should do is to launch an operation against the terrorists and flush them out so that such things do not happen in future. It may be remembered that Punjab faced a prolonged militancy where industrialists were routinely asked for money. The problem was solved through a war against terrorism. Assam should do the same thing. If they are going to catch the victims every time for paying up, the State will be left with no industry at all as nobody would like to do business under threat of life.

Mr B I have heard all your arguments but feel that something is being missed here. This is not just a case of a company being extorted. Frankly, I find no justification why company officials should have met the ULFA people in other countries or devised schemes where the terrorists could get medical

facilities at the best hospitals in the country. This certainly sounds like working with the terrorists. And there can be no justification for this. It is one thing to pay money, but quite another to be sympathetic to their cause. It is also quite surprising that they had employed a person who had links with the ULFA and continued to hide him when the police was looking for him. The activities of the company make it seem as if they were sympathetic and thus I feel that the company should be prosecuted for its actions. It is a very strange situation that while our brave army people are losing their lives in Assam, a company can take the law into its own hands and start meeting and negotiating with the terrorists.

Mr A This is not such an anti-national act as you make it out to be. If you give money, it can be used to buy weapons or bombs. What Tata Tea did was very intelligent. By providing medical facilities, they ensured that their money was not being used for anti-national things. You cannot, for example, convert medical facilities into weapons. I think that the company should be praised for acting the way it did, rather than being condemned. Their method of buying peace was transparent and could not be misused by anyone. If anyone must be prosecuted, it should be the companies which paid cash, but I do not agree with that either, because you cannot penalise the victims. That is justice going in reverse. I think companies should follow the Tata Tea example and whenever confronted by extortionist demands, they should agree to do things in kind, not cash. That itself will be the beginning of the end of insurgency movements everywhere.

Mr C I think that the State government is taking a very soft option by prosecuting the victims rather than the criminals. This gives rise to rumours that it is actually a vendetta. The Chief Minister has been saying that the tea companies hide their true profits, that

they are making a lot of profits and have done nothing for the State. He has also complained that the companies have not informed him of how much money was paid. This is really hypocritical. If he feels companies are hiding profits, there are laws that can be used. He should tighten his tax collection regime. Surely, prosecuting the companies for being extorted is not the answer. The Chief Minister, it seems, has a grudge about something else and is using this excuse to settle scores with the companies. But it is rather short-term, I should say. At a time when the country wants to attract foreign investment in a big way, who will come to a State which has a serious terrorism problem?

Mr D Many views have been expressed and I would like to conclude by saying that the problem is not about funding anti-national organisations. It is really about working in a situation where the law and order has collapsed. What should a businessman do in such a situation? One way is to close down operations and go somewhere else. But this is not a viable option, since companies cannot wind up and keep shifting their base, especially since the law and order in other States is not very great. In recent times, we have seen train dacoities and the mafia operating in Bihar and open killings by the underworld in Mumbai. Slowly, the whole country is becoming unsafe to do legitimate business. The presence of criminals in politics and the criminal-politician nexus makes it virtually impossible to get the government to do anything in such cases. The police and security forces, in any case, are under too great a pressure to provide security to VIPs that they have few resources to solve criminal cases. Nor can companies wilfully endanger the lives of their employees. The answer to this is not to prosecute the victims, but to crack down on those who extort money through threats. The fact that this is not happening speaks poorly for the government.)

New Opportunities in Biotechnology

Biotechnology is a growing field these days. Hardly a week goes by when one does not hear of a startling new development in genetics or biotechnology. Commercial applications of the research are not far on the horizon, though in agriculture these applications have become common.

Biotechnology is the use of living organisms, particularly micro-organisms, in industrial processes. Used for years in baking, brewing and cheese making, these days micro-organisms are used to produce drugs and chemicals. Biotechnology also holds the key for feeding a growing world population. Newer and disease resistant crops is expected to multiply food production.

Environmental technology has, in fact, become a branch of its own. With growing environmental degradation, society is looking at biotech for solutions for disposal of garbage and toxic wastes and of controlling pollution. The world is expected to spend upto \$ 600 million by the year 2000, making biotech the fastest growing field after multimedia. Careers can be made in the different branches of health and medicine, agriculture, animal husbandry and industry. Marine biotechnology, biomedicine and bio-engineering are some more fields that are slowly being unfolded.

Demand for IPR Professionals

The development in biotechnology has given rise to a new field, that of patent experts. India has been slow in catching up with the world in patents, but there is a growing realisation that without the protection of patents, all the research work in many fields would be reduced to nothing. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) already has a Intellectual

Property Management division, which advises scientists on obtaining patents.

Though China has been quick to catch on and set up thousands of patent training institutes in the country, India simply does not have experts on patents. But with the WTO enforcing patents on intellectual property rights, there is going to be a great demand for professionals. There is, thus, an opportunity to make a career in this field. The CSIR itself plans to have at least one patent officer in each of its 40 laboratories. Private companies too will employ such professionals to protect their R&D efforts.

The IPR professional is not an individual that obtains patents and fights cases. He will have to create awareness about IPR in the company, propose research projects by screening international trends, keep a track on competition, prepare documentation for legal proceedings, as also obtain patents on the company's inventions. The IPR professional is, therefore, not just a lawyer. He will usually be a scientist who has a knowledge of scientific and IPR trends world-wide.

By 2005, the country will start granting patents for pharmaceutical, agricultural and food products. So the field of the IPR professional is a virgin field waiting to be explored.

Research Opportunities

There are many research institutes which offer careers in Biotechnology. Biotech Consortium India Ltd was set up to coordinate and pioneer research in biotechnology. It has links with R&D institutes and provides technical and marketing support. It also helps commercial applications by tying up with industries and financial institutions.

The major research institutes are: Na-

tional Institute of Immunology, New Delhi; National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal; Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi; the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad. There are also the prestigious research institutes like the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI).

Some of the major research is being done in the area of medicines. India has a sizeable drug industry, with over 20,000 companies. Most big companies realise that it will not be enough to rely on foreign formulations and the need of the hour is to develop drugs through their own R&D efforts. At least the big companies have invested heavily into such facilities. Some of these companies are: Ranbaxy, Cadilla, Lupin, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Wipro Biomed and Torrent Pharmaceuticals.

Teaching opportunities abound as well. A large number of universities have biotech courses and there is a great demand for qualified teachers. The IITs have departments of Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Biotechnology, Biomedical Engineering and Environmental Science. Universities offering biotechnology courses require trained teachers in this field. Many qualified biotechnologists go abroad too, since trained manpower is in great demand there. Post doctoral study programmes are also available. The Ministry of Science and Technology awards the Biotechnology Overseas Associateships for advanced research in molecular biology, microbial genetics, gene therapy, virology, tissue culture and other fields.

Research has become quite exciting.

as the focus has now shifted to genetics. The human genome project is mapping all the genes in the human body, which will lead to genetic medicine. While conventional medicine will stay, once man learns to alter human genes, it will be possible to remove the defective genes in an individual. As this is a very exciting field, millions of dollars have been poured into genetic research worldwide. Together with research in agricultural and animal genetics, the large-scale efforts have resulted in many opportunities in India as well as all over the world. The Department of Biotechnology has launched its own project, "Human Genome—the Indian Initiative". In future, the genetic industry is expected to be worth \$ 100 million, which is 10 times that of the size of conventional medicine market.

How to Join

A person wanting to join a course in biotechnology must have a background of science, though engineers are many a times preferred. Since the career involves research, one must have an academic bent of mind.

A number of universities and institutes offer courses in biotechnology. One can join B.Sc. in Biotechnology after Class 12, or even a five-year integrated M.Tech. course at the IIT after Class 12. Science graduates in physical, biological, agricultural, veterinary and fishery sciences, pharmacy, engineering, technology and medicine can join the post-graduate programmes offered in more than 25 universities and institutes in collaboration with UGC, ICAR, ICMR and the Department of Ocean Development. At the post graduate level, one can do M.Sc., M.Tech. M.Sc. (agri.) biotechnology or M.Sc. (animal) biotechnology. The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) holds a combined biotechnology entrance examination in May/June every year.

Some of the universities offering biotechnology courses are: Banaras Hindu University; Aligarh Muslim University; MS University, Baroda; Kamraj University, Madurai; Pant University, Pantnagar; Panjab University, Chandigarh and uni-

versities at Calcutta, Lucknow, Pune and Goa.

Some of the institutes offering biotechnology courses and research opportunities are: National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi; National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal; Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi; Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur; and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad.

There are quite a few research institutes to choose from. With the country taking fresh initiatives in biotechnological research, the field is bound to grow in the future. This will result in many new careers. A short-term training for biotechnologists who wish to work in the industry is organised by the Biotech Consortium India Ltd.

Prospects

Biotechnology is a growing field and there is shortage of trained manpower. One reason is that science courses have lost their appeal and many young people are opting for careers in business and marketing, which offer better starting salary. A researcher in India may get a start of just Rs 3,000 per month. Moreover, most research institutes are government-owned and have a very high level of bureaucratic functioning. There is also the danger that your efforts may not be appreciated by seniors or that the desired facilities for research are not available. These have been some traditional weaknesses of government institutions in the past.

One way to get over this would be to work for a private company or even to go abroad. In private companies, the start for a biotechnologist may be Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000 per month. However, for many budding researchers, the place to start would be a government institute.

For a person with an academic bent of mind, biotechnology offers a unique opportunity to work in a virgin field. All other branches of science, like engineering and medicine, are almost saturated. In this field, one may have a chance to

work in an emerging technology and even an invention that can be patented. It is a science which will yield the wonder drugs of tomorrow and also new life forms. If one is lucky to develop something new and have it patented, one can make a name as well as a large fortune. The field is, thus, very exciting and has tremendous possibilities.

Companies realise the potential of biotechnology and have invested heavily in the hope of cashing in later on. This has led to further growth of avenues. Apart from the companies already mentioned, many new companies are entering the field, including transnational companies. These companies will scout campuses in India to look for trained people and salaries may rise in future.

Though the field has many possibilities, one may add that it is the committed professional who will find personal career growth. Biological research is often time consuming and may not yield anything for many years. A researcher must, therefore, have patience and must be prepared to do hard work.

Important Addresses

1. Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Education Division, Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 012: Courses in agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, forestry and other sciences. Eligibility: Class 12 with minimum 60% marks. Entrance test is held in May every year. Look out for the advertisement in March/April.

2. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore: Post graduate courses.

3. Biotechnology Entrance Examination: Held in May/June every year. Look out for advertisement in April. Address: Assistant Registrar (CEEB), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi - 110 067.

4. Department of Biotechnology, Block 2, 7th floor, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003.

5. National Institute of Immunology, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi - 110 067.

6. Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Palampur - 176 061 (Himachal Pradesh).

How to Choose Management Institutes

Students desirous of doing their MBA are faced with a dilemma about which institutes they should apply to. There are so many institutes (more than 500, according to latest estimates) that one is really at a loss to know which ones are good and which ones are not. Each claims to be better than all the others. In the absence of transparency and information, the student really has no idea about the quality of the education that one may receive and subsequently, jobs. This feature answers the common questions that students have about institutes and what should be the best strategy to select and apply to them.

Around this time of the year, newspapers are full of advertisements of management institutes inviting students to apply to them and seek admission. Each claims to be better than the other. Names of foreign affiliations are thrown about as well as all those wonderful jobs that graduates of the institute were able to get. If one is "foremost in management education", another is a "centre for excellence" and still another is a "pioneer of management education in the country". Exotic teaching methods, such as yoga and meditation, have been introduced to give the courses a local touch. There is, however, no way of knowing whether the claims are true or not.

Unlike the West, there is no rating of institutes or a criteria against which a student may assess himself before applying. Nor is information easy to get from these institutes. Though the concept of the MBA degree is borrowed from Western universities, our institutes do not share information.

For a student, this poses a daunting task. Applying to all the institutes is not feasible because each requires you to buy a prospectus at a hefty price. The only way out is to depend on market reputation and hearsay and make an assessment whether

an application should be made or not. A broad indicator is whether the institute has government approval or not, but since a number of questionable institutes boast of approval by the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), the tag has become quite meaningless.

The scene has been made more confusing by unscrupulous activities by some institutes. Many demand donations from students and it is easy to get in if you can pay for your seat. Others have a system of "non-resident quota" in which one must pay double the fees and secure a seat. An institute in Ghaziabad is notorious for leaking its entrance test year after year, putting many students at a disadvantage.

In the absence of a rating system, a rough way to assess the institutes is to classify them in a broad category. One method could be as follows: a) the top 10 institutes which have a very good reputation, b) universities offering MBA programmes, c) institutes set up by industry or having industrial backing, d) institutes without any industrial backing and set up by academics or unknown people, and e) foreign degrees offered through correspondence.

One should, of course, try for the best institutes and prepare well for admission. If one is not able to match the high scores required, it would be better to look for institutes lower down in the list. On no account should one pay capitation fee, because one would be stuck with a worthless degree even after paying heavily for it.

Admission Procedure

MBA entrance has a three step admission procedure. First, one has to clear the written test. This is a qualifying test and the score obtained does not have a bearing on admission. Second, one has to appear for a group discussion and finally, there is

a short interview.

Preparing for the test is comparatively easy because there are a number of books and correspondence courses available. It is advisable to do a large number of practice tests and make an honest assessment of scores. Applications should be made accordingly.

It is also advisable to prepare for the group discussions and interviews simultaneously and not wait till the last moment. One should read newspapers and magazines and get to know about the latest economic situation. Issues should be understood and debated. One can form an informal group or discuss with family members and friends. A thorough reading of the issues covered in *Competition Master* is very helpful.

Though the test is objective, the group discussion and interview are subjective. Many institutes do not have any criteria about the kind of questions that should be asked. When we asked the heads of leading institutes what kind of personality they looked for, not one could explain their criteria. Private institutes use the interview to probe about the background of the candidate and assess whether donations could be obtained. This makes the procedure quite suspect. Even the good institutes are very secretive and do not have a transparent method of selection. The student thus has to apply blindly, like a lottery.

Students across the country would benefit if management institutes are graded and the range of acceptable scores are advertised. The reason why this is not done is that institutes see a revenue earning opportunity from sale of prospectus. By selling dreams of great jobs in multinational companies, they are able to attract a large number of applications and make money at the students' expense. The job of the government too appears to end with granting approval

Practice Tests

The right way to make a choice is to assess oneself first. If one is targetting the best institutes, does one have the calibre? One should appear in a number of practice tests and get an honest score. The tests should have 180-200 questions and must be done in two hours. In calculating scores, the average of three or five tests should be taken. Once you have your score, you can use the following table as a guide:

Category	If your score is	You can apply to
1.	Above 100	The Top institutes/CAT and allied institutes
2.	Between 70-100	Universities/industry backed institutes
3.	Between 50-70	Most MAT institutes/Institutes without industrial backing
4.	Below 50	Foreign university for correspondence degree

This is a rough method and there could be exceptions, but it gives an indication as to which institute one has the chance of getting to.

No steps are taken to monitor quality or even to check the admission process.

A step towards transparency has been taken by the All India Management Association (AIMA): this year, it will send the MAT scores to candidates. The next step should be to link the scores with institutes. If the student knows the cut-off scores of institutes, he can make the applications accordingly, rather than applying blindly.

In the absence of cut-off scores, the ideal thing is to choose 2-3 institutes in a category and apply to them, in order to spread risks. For example, if one has a net score of 90, one can apply to 2-3 institutes in category 1 and also 2-3 institutes in category 2. Out of 5-6 applications, one can be reasonably sure to get an admission offer from one. By doing so, one is not wasting time or the effort of appearing in different tests of a large number of institutes.

The idea is to prepare well for the entrance test. Ideally, one should start in one's second year of graduation. There is no point paying a capitation fee, even though the environment has been spoiled to a very great extent.

Comparing Institutes

The situation of admissions in management education is quite dismal, indeed. The system is exploitative and there are many operators who have opened institutes to cash in on the demand for a management degree. Lacking facilities and staff, they operate like small shops. Unfortunately, even

reputed universities and institutes are not able to provide good management education. For example, the good teachers are perpetually on leave as they manage to get assignments from abroad. Only those with parochial outlooks and limited teaching skills are left. Visiting faculty often fills in the gaps. It is difficult to find teachers who are trained in the case discussion method, so essential in management classes.

That is why there are only a few institutes which have a good name. Industry too does not recognise many institutes and this is the reason that there is a glut of MBAs. The smaller institutes prefer to take only those candidates who can get jobs through their parents' contacts, which is later used to sell the institute. But if one is to make a career, the ideal thing is to get into a reputed institute.

Of late, many foreign universities have started advertising their management programmes in India. It is possible to get a foreign degree without leaving the country. The value of such degrees is doubtful and it is unlikely that they will have the same acceptability as a full-fledged degree.

Ultimately, it may be said admission to MBA courses is like a roulette wheel. There is a long way to go before some order can be restored and the activities of money-making institutes can be curtailed. For that, the government would have to play an active part and not sit back after granting approval. In fact, it may be advisable to review the approval after some time

and cancel it for those institutes which are not able to maintain standards. An authentic rating of the institutes would also help the students.

The system has to move from being exploitative and become more professional. It is an irony that those who are to teach management to others actually need a watchdog to ensure that they are managing themselves properly.

Attempting Management Tests

1. Attempt all sections within the given time. Work by an alarm clock or ask someone to remind you to switch sections.

2. Develop skill in all sections. Do not concentrate in one section at the expense of the other. A certain minimum marks have to be obtained in all sections.

3. Attempt different forms of testing so that you are not taken unawares by any surprise element in the paper.

4. Remember that speed is not hurry. Speed means spotting shorter methods as opposed to the 'correct' way of solving problems. Rushing through the paper is unlikely to do you any good.

5. Keep your cool. If you panic, close your eyes and meditate. Return to the paper after blanking your mind of negative thoughts.

6. Compare your scores with others and you will have a good idea where you are heading.

7. Make a note of the mistakes you are likely to make. Keep these points in front of you while attempting mock tests so that you learn to avoid them.

8. Keep a small diary in which you write all the formulae, tables and the things you forget often. Carry it around and check it whenever you are in doubt. Constant reference will help you memorise what you find difficult.

9. Identify weak areas and seek professional help to get over them.

10. If you are consistently lagging behind, perhaps you need to consider whether you have aptitude. Maybe your talent lies in some other field and you should look at alternate careers.

ADMISSION ALERT

The Competition Master's Guide to Opportunities

This feature alerts our readers about forthcoming examinations and opportunities. Institutes should send us information well in advance to be included here. Readers are advised to assess their own suitability and that of the institute before applying—this feature is not a recommendation of any course or institute.

Computers

Bachelor in Computer Applications (BCA, IGNOU)—Eligibility: Class 12 with Maths. Apply to: New Delhi Institute of Management, 61 Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110 062 with a DD for Rs 125.

Defence

Combined Defence Services Exam—To be held on May 3, 1998. Last date: December 8, 1997. Eligibility: Degree of a recognised university or equivalent. Apply on the prescribed format to: Secretary, Union Public Service Commission, Dholpur House, New Delhi - 110 011. For details see advt published on October 25, 1997

Design

School Leavers' Programme and Advanced Entry Programme (4/2.5 years)—Eligibility: Class 12 with competence in Maths, Science and Social Sciences, and age below 22/25 years. Written test: January 3-4, 1998. Last date: November 28, 1997. Apply to: National Institute of Design, Paldi, Ahmedabad - 380 007 with a DD for Rs 500 payable to Secretary, NID, and a s.a.s.e. with Rs 3 stamps.

Engineering/MCA

Combined Entrance Examination (CEE-98)—Eligibility: Class 12 with Physics, Chemistry, Maths for B.E./B.Tech and Bachelor's degree with Maths or Statistics for MCA. Written test: February 21, 1998. Last date: December 15, 1997. Apply to: Coordinator Admissions Committee, CEE-98, MNR Engineering College, Allahabad - 211 004 with a DD for Rs 450 for Engineering or Rs 350 for MCA.

Management

1. MBA (Full time, 2 years)—Eligibility: Graduate with minimum 50% in arts or 55% in Science, minimum age 20 years. Written test: January 11, 1998. Last date: November 28, 1997. Forms available at branches of State Bank of India, or apply to: Administrative Officer, Faculty of Management Sciences, University of Delhi, Delhi - 110 007 with a DD for Rs 500 payable to: Registrar, University of Delhi.

2. PGDBM (Residential, 2 years)—Eligibility: Bachelor's degree in any discipline. Written test: December 28, 1997. Last date: December 8, 1997. Apply to: Chairman (Admissions), Post Box 137, Institute of Management and Technology (IMT), Raj

Nagar, Ghaziabad - 201 001 with a DD for Rs 850.

3. PG Programme in Forestry Management (2 years, residential)—Eligibility: Bachelor's degree with minimum 50% marks. Written test: February 15, 1998. Last date: December 15, 1997. Apply on the prescribed format to: Coordinator PGP Admissions, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Post Box 335, Nehru Nagar, Bhopal - 462 003 (MP) with a DD for Rs 400, 2 photographs and 28x22 cm size with Rs 10 stamps.

4. PGDBM (2 years, full time)—Eligibility: Graduation in any discipline and minimum age 20 years. Written test: January 10, 1998. Forms available in selected Canara Bank branches or write to: Fore School of Management, B-18, Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110 016 with a DD for Rs 1000.

5. PGDBM (2 years, full time)—Eligibility: Graduation with minimum 50% marks. Written test: MAT on December 7, 1997. Apply to: Centre for Management Development, 18 Community Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi - 110 065 with a DD for Rs 825.

6. PG Diplomas in Management, Advertising and Rural Marketing (2 years, full time)—Eligibility: Graduation with minimum 50% marks. Written test: February 1, 1998 or GMAT score of above 600. Apply to: Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, VL Mehta Road, Vile Parle (W), Mumbai - 400 056 with a DD for Rs 600 and a s.a.s.e. with stamps of Rs 35.

7. PG Diploma in Business Management—Eligibility: Graduate in any discipline. Written test: MAT, CAT or GMAT scores are valid. Last date: December 7, 1997. Apply to: Empi Business School, CSKM Educational Complex, Satbari, Mehrauli, New Delhi - 110 030 with a DD for Rs 400.

8. Masters Programme in International Business—Eligibility: Graduation with minimum 50% marks and max age 25 years. Written test: February 1, 1998. Last date: December 15, 1997. Apply to: Coordinator, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, IIFT Bhawan, Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110 016 with a DD for Rs 650.

9. MBA (IGNOU)—Eligibility: Bachelor's degree plus 3 years experience or Masters degree in any subject. Apply to: New Delhi Institute of Management, 61 Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110 062 with a DD for Rs 250 and a s.a.s.e. with stamps of Rs 20.

10. PGDM—Eligibility: Graduates with minimum 50% marks. Written test: January 18, 1998. Last date: December 20, 1997. Apply to: Symbiosis Centre for Management and Human Resource Development, New Management Building, Gokhale Cross Road, Model Colony PO, Pune - 411 016 with a DD for Rs 500.

Railway Recruitment

Vocation Course in Railway Commercial—Eligibility: Class 10 and age below 18 years. Written test: February 8, 1998. Last date: November 24, 1997. Apply on the prescribed format to: Railway Recruitment Board, Nawab Yusuf Road, Allahabad - 211 001. For details see advt published on October 25, 1997.

Question Box

Q. How can I join the Company Secretary (CS) course? I have heard that it takes a long time to clear CA or CS and mostly students fail to clear one group or another. Is that true?

—*Neeru Sardana, Bhirwani (Haryana)*

A. You can join the CS by clearing the Foundation Examination after class 12. For details, write to Northern India Regional Council of ICSI, Plot No. 4 Prasad Nagar Institutional Area, Rajendra Place New Delhi—110 005.

As for your second question, it is true that it takes a long time for some students to clear CA or CS. This is because the pass percentage is controlled by the institutes so that there are not too many qualified professionals, which would affect their salaries. For this reason, some students get stuck for many years. However, this is not a general rule and some people do clear it in their first attempt too. For most others, it is easy to get into CA or CS, but difficult to get out.

Q. What is D-day?

—*Sibu Narayan Panda, Paralakhemundi (Orissa)*

A. D-day was the code name for the first day of Operation Overlord in World War II when Allied Forces landed on the French coast at Normandy on June 6, 1944 in the largest sea-borne invasion in history. Over 2 million men trained in England for months for the invasion. By launching a direct attack on Germany and defeating it, the World War II drew to a close. D-day was thus the beginning of the end of the war.

Q. I want to become an automobile engineer. Is there a course for it?

—*Joy Mukherjee, Asansol (WB)*

A. There is no separate course for automobile engineering. The best thing for you would be to do a course in Engineering from IITs or regional engineering colleges and look for a job in an automobile company. This

will help you realise your ambition.

Q. What is Prasar Bharti Bill?

—*Manas Bhattacharya, Hooghly (WB)*

A. The Prasar Bharti Bill grants autonomy to Doordarshan and AIR. It has also cleared the decks for setting up of a broadcast authority to control the media industry. It will regulate private broadcasters, including foreign satellite channels and it will also formulate regulations for direct-to-home (DTH) services.

Q. What is the difference between a credit card and a cash card?

—*Vaibhav Grover, Shimla (HP)*

A. A credit card can be used by a person to buy goods and services on credit. Depending on the credit limit, a person can buy and pay for them later, sometimes in instalments. A cash card, on the other hand, carries a chip on which one's cash balance is electronically stored. One can use this card to pay for goods and services just like one pays cash. Once the balance is exhausted, it would have to be loaded again by the bank. In this case, one is using one's own cash and not availing of any credit facilities.

Q. What is the difference between a proverb and a quotation?

—*Manash Datta, Guwahati (Assam)*

A. A proverb is a saying which is not attributed to anybody, but contains some wisdom. For example, "Too many cooks spoil the broth" is a proverb. A quotation, on the other hand, is something attributed to a person. It may be a line from a book or a speech.

Q. I have done my graduation in 2 years from a university but it is not recognised for admission to a post-graduate course. What should I do now?

—*Omprakash Mandal, Midnapore (WB)*

A. It is true that a graduation degree obtained in one sitting or in two years is

not recognised by many universities. In some institutes, even graduation through correspondence is not considered good for admission to post-graduate courses. Yet, a number of people all over India are misled to obtain these useless degrees. People should ensure the worth of a degree before joining it. Anyway, since you have already been through it, the best thing now would be to look for courses or institutes where the two-year graduation is not considered a shortcoming. Alternately, you can do a professional diploma and look for a job.

Q. What kind of jobs are available in the advertising field?

—*Neelam Kapur, New Delhi*

A. The broad category of jobs available in advertising are commercial and creative. On the commercial side, one can be an accounts executive and act as a link between the client and the agency. Jobs are also available in media buying and planning, production and liaison. On the creative side, one can be a copywriter, artist or visualiser. Choose a field depending on your flair and aptitude.

Q. What would happen if earth were all land and no sea?

—*Zafar Alam, Aligarh (UP)*

A. It would be a dead planet, like Mars. Pictures of Mars sent by the recent Pathfinder probe show a rocky, barren surface on which nothing grows. It is the water in the seas and the oceans that make life possible on earth.

Q. How many years does one term of the US President last for?

—*Ajay Singh Bhardwaj, New Delhi*

A. Four.

Q. What is the minimum position one can expect after MBA?

—*Mala Sinha, Dhanbad (Bihar)*

A. One is usually taken as a management trainee after MBA. The salary of such a

position would vary from company to company

Q. I want to do my MCA. Is it equivalent to diplomas offered by private institutes?

—L. Krishna Kumar, New Delhi

A. No An MCA from a good university or institute is certainly better than diplomas from private institutes

Q. When can one consider that his education is completely finished?

—Vikas Jhunjhunwala, Sundergarh (Orissa)

A. Education is a life-long affair There are always new things to know and learn, which enriches one's life In that sense, one's education never finishes Here, one is talking about knowledge, and not formal education

Q. How can I prepare for the entrance test of hotel management?

—Ambika Thakur Bilaspur (HP)

A. In the entrance tests of hotel management, usually questions on basic maths, English and reasoning are asked, with a little bit of General Knowledge You can prepare for these from class X books Also do the tests published in **COMPLETION MASTER** regularly This will give you adequate practice to solve the entrance exam

Q. I want to take up modelling as a career. How should I start?

—Tapas Paul Rahara (WB)

A. Have your portfolio made from a professional photographer Send these pictures to model coordinating agencies If you have a good personality and the pictures are pleasing, you will certainly get a chance to fulfil your ambition

Q. I am 16 years old but only 5 feet. I want to improve my height, but don't get adequate time for exercise. Can I improve my height?

—Swastika Mohanty, Bhubaneswar (Orissa)

A. Do not be too alarmed with your height It depends on a number of factors, including your inherited qualities Exercise will therefore not make a dramatic improvement in height We suggest you do not think of it as a shortcoming have you not heard that sweet things come in small packages?

Q. What is the meaning of "state-of-the-art"?

—Ranjit Singh, Mughal Sarai (UP)

A. State-of-the-art means the current state of development of a subject or technique It is the most advanced available at that time. If technology is regarded as art, the phrase means the latest state of the technology at that point in time

Q. Which State has the highest per capita income?

—Digbijay Singh, Kendrapara (Orissa)

A. Punjab has the highest per capita income in the country, with a figure of Rs 7081 (89-90).

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BANK P.O./RBI/NABARD EXAMS SPECIAL

Questions on Social and Economic Problems

Q. The 'Human Development Report, 1997' gives a summary of the state of poverty towards the end of the 20th century. Briefly enumerate some of the observations

Ans. The following points summarize the state of poverty towards the end of 20th century

(i) More than a quarter of the developing world's people still live in poverty as measured by the human poverty index. About a third—1.3 billion people—live on incomes of less than \$1 a day

(ii) South Asia has the most people affected by human poverty. It also has the largest number of people in income poverty: 515 million. Together, South Asia, East Asia and South East Asia and the Pacific have more than 950 million of the 1.3 billion people who are income poor

(iii) Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest proportion of people in—and the fastest growth in—human poverty. Some 220 million people in the region are income poor. The Sub-Saharan and other least developed countries are poverty stricken. It has been estimated that by 2000, half the people in Sub-Saharan Africa will be in income poverty

(iv) In Latin America and the Caribbean income poverty is more pervasive than human poverty—affecting 110 million people—and it continues to grow

(v) Eastern Europe and the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) have seen the greatest deterioration in the past decade. Income poverty has spread from a small part of their population to about a third—120 million below a poverty line of \$4 a day

(vi) In industrial countries more than 100 million people live below the income poverty line, set at half the individual median income. Thirty-seven million people are jobless

Within these groups some people suffer more than the others. Children, women and the aged fall in this group. Children suffer from malnutrition and illness. Some 160 million children are moderately or severely malnourished and some 110 million are out of school

Women too are disproportionately poor—and often disempowered and burdened by productive work, the birth and care of children and other household and community responsibilities. Their lack of access to land, credit and better employment opportunities handicaps their ability to fend off poverty for themselves and their families. Half a million women die each year in childbirth—particularly in poor communities

The aged also live their last few years in poverty and neglect

There has been a certain amount of success in eradicating poverty in the 20th century and it can be hoped that it would be feasible to eradicate severe poverty in the first decades of the 21st century

Q. It is important to have a well-designed strategy for Rural Development for solving many problems that our country faces. Discuss

Ans. Many analysts feel that the key to solving most of India's problems lies in the rural sector—for here lie the most acute problems of the economy. Rural areas are the centres of superstition, social taboos, conservatism, fatalism and acceptance of misery. Illiteracy also hampers the development of human capital

Asset distribution in the rural areas is lopsided and nearly 20 per cent of the households own less than Rs 1000 worth of assets; possess only about 0.7 per cent of total assets. Unequal asset distribution is the reason for income inequalities

A serious problem is that in rural ar-

reas, both unemployment and underemployment exist side by side. The distinction between them is sharp. In the villages, unemployment ordinarily takes the form of underemployment. In the agricultural sector a large number of labourers are engaged in production than are really needed. The marginal product of labour in agriculture is often negligible—zero or even negative. Hence, there is 'disguised' or 'concealed' unemployment in agriculture

A massive exodus of population from rural to urban areas is also a problem, exerting pressure on civil services, accommodation, traffic, urban land as also law and order

In its limited interpretation, rural development has been confined to direct attacks on poverty through special employment programmes and development programmes and land reforms. The budget for 1995-96 had announced special measures for rural development. It is important to strengthen the delivery system, infrastructure and also effectively manage rural development programmes

If India is to reap benefits from economic restructuring, it is important to curb poverty, tackle unemployment and deal with rural area problems effectively

Q. How are population growth and economic growth related to each other? What are some of the things that the government needs to remember to curb rapid population growth?

Ans. The much talked about relationship between economic growth and population growth is, in fact, a circular relationship. More and more people have felt in the recent times that economic reforms should give considerable attention to population too

Increasing population hampers eco-

economic growth. Some very basic results of unprecedented population increase are in fact related to the social infrastructure and essential needs of people. Rapid population growth makes it difficult for governments to provide required levels of health, water and sanitation services and makes it difficult to attain good health outcomes. Education is also affected. The quality of education provided by the government remains poor especially in rural India. While lower population growth would make it easy for the government to provide better education, education in turn would further help curb population growth.

Income inequality also rises with higher rates of population growth. High population density leads to large declines in real incomes of landless labourers while large landowners experience sharp increases in the rents paid to them.

Population growth also results into a greater demand for energy for household use. Since income levels are low, energy consumed is mainly non-conventional. Employment pressures lead to changing land use patterns such as diversion of fallow forest land to permanent clearing for cultivation, burning of forest land and grass land, creation of wet lands and increased carbon emissions in the air. Decrease in population pressures would equip the government with greater resources to tackle this problem.

The other aspect is the effect that the extent of economic growth can have on population growth. Slow economic growth and poverty also cause rapid population growth. Poor quality of health services, poor nutrition, lack of immunization—all these combine to result in low life expectancy and high infant mortality. Poor quality education prevents people to get out of the cycle of poverty.

It is now increasingly felt that our economic freedom should extend itself to the population policy. There are a number of implications for government policy. While people have to be discouraged to produce more children, there also have to be efforts to improve prospects for economic growth. There is a need for investment in human development for (i) improving child nutrition and health

(ii) reducing infant mortality (iii) increasing schooling, especially for girls (iv) increasing adult (especially adult female) literacy (v) improving maternal health and nutrition with special attention to girl children.

For this, the government must invest in school and health care facilities, more effective preventive health programmes, cheap food availability to all sections of the community especially children, social security for the old.

Some experts have also extended the concept of liberalisation or "opening up" to population policy requirements also. An isolated, inward-looking economy hinders competition and leads to inefficiency. This inefficiency tends to creep into social sectors also. Thus the population policy must be now made up of a complex set of inter-related policies of which economic policies are a major component. The government needs to invest in building human capital and provide opportunities for improvement to all.

Q. Explain 'convertibility' of a currency. Discuss the effects of convertibility of a currency in the context of developing countries of the world.

Ans Convertibility of a currency is an attribute wherein the currency is freely exchangeable for another currency, or for gold. A convertible currency can thus be used freely for payment of goods and services, including travel without any limitations. On the other hand, a controlled currency cannot be converted into foreign currencies without prior authorisation because of exchange controls imposed in that country. This concept was developed under the Bretton Woods Agreement. Under the agreement, the concept of convertibility has the following features:

(a) Freedom of trade and payments for current account transactions.

(b) applications of fixed exchange rate (par value) in respect of payments for current account transactions and

(c) national endeavour to maintain adequate reserves, supplemented by multilateral reserves, under the IMF quota system to meet any temporary shortfalls between supply of and demand for foreign exchange in the market. Capital account

transactions are excluded from the agreement. In practice, it took about 15 years for currency convertibility to come into effect in the early 1960s. Convertibility is meant to achieve not just the reduction of trade deficit, but also increasing revenues to bridge the enormous budgetary deficit which an economy is confronted with.

Developing countries face problems, especially in context of convertibility on capital account. This implies that these countries would have to repay their external debts at currently determined exchange rates in the market. Sometimes, it is also said that if there are no interventions the national currency falls drastically and a vicious cycle of inflation and currency depreciation follows. Invariably, these countries face the problem of distorted demand-supply position. Also, there is an inevitable one way expectation system that hinders the forward market from providing exchange risk cover at reasonable cost.

Also, to develop an efficient and adequate deep forward market, requires that there be freedom of movement for short-term capital, and fairly broad and liquid short-term financial asset market and market determined asset pricing. However, financial systems in developing countries are not so well organised or efficient.

Perhaps the greatest fear vis-a-vis full convertibility is convertibility on capital account. It is normally expected that this leads to a large outflow of funds from the country. Besides, it ultimately means that loans to be repaid exert greater pressure since they have to be paid back in terms of prevalent exchange rates. This creates a difficult balance of payments situation. Hence, developing countries have to ensure the existence of an efficient, well-developed financial system and enough gains from exports to be able to pay off all debts at current rates.

Q. The 'World Development Report, 1997' mentions essential steps to strengthen a country's public sector. Discuss some of them, in brief.

Ans. (a) Strong central capacity for formulating and coordinating policy: Goals are set by politicians and the future visions are also formulated by them.

However, these have to be translated into strategic priorities for them to materialise. For this, we need mechanisms that lead to well informed, disciplined and accountable decisions. All countries need to set rules that give politicians and their expert counsellors the flexibility they need to formulate policies, but they also have to embed their decision-making in processes that allow for inputs and oversight from stakeholders.

(b) **Effective and efficient delivery systems:** In this case too, reform involves getting the right balance between flexibility and accountability. Market mechanisms and contractual basis of services are useful for activities that are contestable, i.e. where there is scope for actual or potential competition from various suppliers. However, for many other services here is no substitute for delivery by the public sector. If, in the public sector, citizens are given greater voice and client feedback is allowed, pressure can be exerted for better performance.

(c) **Motivated and capable staff:** These are some crucial factors for the executive. Able and dedicated staff inject energy into the public sector. If the staff is incommitted, the organisation gets stifled. Civil servants can be motivated to perform well through a range of mechanisms, including merit-based recruitment and promotion, adequate pay, and a strong spirit for working.

Besides, certain reforms can help generate payoffs as far as the working of the public sector is concerned. Policy-making processes should incorporate rules and norms that can curb uncoordinated political pressures. It should be aimed to build mechanisms to discipline and coordinate the policy debate and call competing policy proposals into question.

Effective public sectors the world over have been characterized by strong central capacity for macro-economic and strategic policy formulation. Also, there are mechanisms to delegate, discipline and debate policies among government agencies; and by institutionalized links to stakeholders outside the government, providing transparency and accountabil-

ity and encouraging feedback. The absence of these things can prove an obstacle to building a more effective state. Therefore it is important to make sure that these factors exist in a country. This can help maintain an effective and efficient public sector.

Q. Following the recent steps taken by the TATAS to form a trust for political donations, there has been a lot of talk about the issue. Suggestions have included increasing accountability of political parties and State financing of elections. Discuss the issue.

Ans. There are various aspects related to the issue of funding of elections. First, we need to ask whether corporate donations should be directed towards individual politicians or be limited to political parties. One view is that when donations are given to individual politicians, there can be no surety that these would be used for activities connected to a political party. In such cases, one cannot say that donations should be given to individuals. Therefore, it has been suggested that these donations be towards the party as a whole. Perhaps every party can have some proper mechanism through which this money is received.

The important aspect here is that if parties are to be allowed to take donations there should be some system of accountability on the part of the parties. This can be achieved by auditing party accounts. Besides ensuring accountability, this also means that there is total transparency as far as the funding is concerned. Transparency perhaps is the most important word here. No money should be left unaccounted.

The second aspect related to the donations is that of a bar against any *quid pro quo*. That is, there should be sufficient checks to see that no favours are granted for the corporation that is giving the funds. When there is accountability, and if all fund records are made available to the public, a check can be kept. Besides, corporations should give donations subject to approval by the board and perhaps even by the important shareholders.

Once we have discussed about whether donations should be given and

how they should be channelised, the question arises whether such donations would be considered bribes or not. The problem arises only if there is non-transparency of the funding. In cases where everything is done in a clandestine manner, the seeds of corruption are sown. All political donations are therefore not bribes. These are allowed under the Companies Act—even procedures for this are laid down. Some people have suggested that the State can play a role here. One possibility is that the State give incentives to companies if they want to give money to political parties—maybe some tax relief. Besides, there should be some limit on the amount that a corporation can give to a political party. Also, an all-party committee can be set up to frame a policy—with all procedural details and draft legislations—regarding contributions to political parties.

The third aspect relates to the feasibility of State financing of elections. Some have said that the State funding of elections would reduce the temptation of parties and politicians to receive secret donations. Some people allege that State funding would increase the problem of fiscal deficit. The other view is that fiscal deficit is already there and can be reduced by cutting down subsidies or through privatisation of public sector undertakings.

State funding can actually help and prove to be good for the country. However, it is difficult to achieve this easily in a parliamentary system. Even a disciplined country like Japan has experienced funding scams quite often. Korea and Italy also faced similar problems.

Perhaps we can have a whole, independent debate on the issue of State funding itself, covering various matters of concern. In 1990, there was a Dinesh Goswami report on State funding which has still not been implemented.

Whatever be the variety of opinions the fact is that corruption has come to be deep-seated in society, and money-power has become too important to all. In this light we should all get together to look at ways of channelising donations properly so that there is no secrecy or, no act done in a clandestine manner.

General Studies Scene

Q. 1. "The approach paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan relies heavily on the principle of co-operative federalism " Elucidate.

Ans The approach paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan lays emphasis on the co-operative federalism. The spirit of Indian federalism further strengthened by the setting up of the Planning Commission, is well known. Planning by its very nature is a participative process in which governments at different levels, including Panchayati Raj Institutions have to participate. Over the past few decades various Commissions including Sarkaria Commission and Administrative Reforms Commission have examined the issue of Union State relations. All these commissions have aimed at achieving a co-operative federalism in India where the spirit of co-operation would prevail over the issues of conflict. Ninth Plan Approach Paper specifically lays emphasis on this aspect.

The existing practice of fixing the plan size of a State involves determining of the Plan size working out of sectoral/sub-sectoral outlays and earmarking outlays for different schemes. In the existing system of monitoring, review and appraisal, there is a detailed scrutiny by the Planning Commission. In addition due to financial crunch the share of outlays in total public sector outlays has come down and is likely to be around 36 per cent during the entire Eighth Five Year Period. Moreover ever growing number of centrally sponsored schemes has affected the initiative of the State governments.

Approach to the Ninth Plan is somewhat different. The Inter-State Council had decided that its standing committee would review and update the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission. The Plan document also commits itself to improving the resources availability with the States. With a view to discuss and evolve a new formula for channelising more funds, it proposes to discuss it in the meeting of the National Development Council (NDC). In principle, the plan recognizes the need for promoting balanced regional development and providing the basic necessities of life to the masses. Due attention is promised to be paid towards levels of development of rural-agricultural hinterlands and development of infrastructure.

So far as Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) are concerned, the Plan admits the need to give a free hand to the States. Except in case where national priorities and security are involved, or in cases where due to any reason Central supervision is required, the Plan paper promises to transfer CSSs to the States along with the corresponding funds. Certain schemes like improvement of slums, anti-poverty programmes, urban development, hill development, irrigation schemes, environment protection plans etc would be

further strengthened. Efforts would also be made to seek cooperation of the States in the matters of having harmonised tax-structure, minimum tariff, uniform rates of subsidies and facilitation of inter-State trade. Involvement of States in formulating their annual plans would be increased. Perception of the States regarding approaches and priorities of the Ninth Plan were obtained and incorporated in the Approach Paper to the Plan.

Panchayati Raj institutions have introduced a new dimension to the cooperative federalism in India. In addition to the grants for the local bodies from the Central allocations, the Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies are planned to be given revenue raising powers. Annual Plans of the States would now be required to give the Panchayati Raj Institutions' components separately. The financing tasks of the plans of the local bodies would be adequately integrated with the follow up of the implementation of the State Finance Commission Reports. Awareness building among the people would also be given top priority by the Ninth Five Year Plan. All these measures would aim at strengthening further the concept of cooperative federalism during the Ninth Plan Period.

Q. 2. Article 19 of the Constitution ensures freedom of the Press in India. How this freedom is guaranteed? What are the measures the press is not immune from?

Ans. Indian Constitution has no specific provision for freedom of the press. Freedom of the press is included in Article 19(1)(a) i.e. general freedom of expression. This Article not only gives freedom to express own views but also the views of others by any means including printing. This freedom of the press is subject to clause 2 of Article 19 which imposes reasonable restrictions on the freedom of the press, in the interest of the security of the State, or integrity of the country or friendly relations with neighbouring States, public order, decency or morality etc.

In view of the guarantee of freedom of expression, the following cannot be done by the State:

(a) The State cannot subject the press to the laws which take away the freedom of expression or which would curtail circulation and narrow the scope of dissemination of information. State can also not, by excessive taxes, drive press to seek government aid, thereby undermining its freedom.

(b) The State cannot single out the press for excessive and prohibitive taxes or penalties, which would burden it and restrict its circulation. It cannot burden the press so much as to lead the public to choose an alternative media.

(c) The State cannot impose a specific tax deliberately upon

the press, calculating to limit the circulation of information.

After the expiry of Press (Objectionable Matter) Act, 1951, in 1956 there was no national Act for Control of Press in India. In 1976, the Parliament enacted Prevention of Publication of Objectionable Matter Act with some rigorous provisions against the press. In 1977, however, the said Act was repealed and with 44th Constitutional Amendment an Article No. 361A was inserted in the Constitution, making the freedom of the press more specific.

The press is, however, not immune from:

(a) The ordinary forms of taxation.

(b) The application of general laws relating to industrial relations.

(c) The regulation of conditions of services of the employees.

A question is generally asked—when we have a free press, where does the censorship fit in? The Constitution does not specifically prohibit the censorship of the press. The reasonableness of the censorship of the press has to be judged within the meaning of clause 2 to Article 19. In the case of *Brij Bhushan Vs State of Delhi*, the Supreme Court held that pre-censorship, if it is not supported by the "Security of the State" or other contingencies provided in clause 2, was not valid. In many decisions thereafter, it has been held that pre-censorship for a limited period of emergent circumstances is valid, but it cannot be left to the absolute discretion of the executive. Pre-censorship of films, however, has been upheld to protect public order and morality.

Q.3. Write a brief note on integration of various princely States in the Indian Union after independence, with particular reference to Hyderabad, Junagarh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Ans. The Plan of partition had left the issue of princely States wide open. It was clarified that the rulers could decide to declare their merger to any of the two States by signing an instrument of accession. It was left to them to decide which way to go. But, it was not clarified what would be the status of a State which did not decide to get into any of the two States. As a result, India faced problem in the merger of Hyderabad, Junagarh and Kashmir.

Nizam of Hyderabad had made his intentions clear that he intended to be an independent ruler. Later, a delegation of the Nizam made it clear to the Indian Government that a dominion status be granted to Hyderabad. In the meanwhile, many acts of Nizam, including declaring Indian currency to be invalid, banning exports from Hyderabad to India, etc irritated India. Due to internal disturbances in Hyderabad, Indian Army had no option but to carry out a swift operation to prevent on-going bloodshed. In December 1949, the State was fully under control of India.

Situation was almost similar in Junagarh. It had no geographical contiguity with Pakistan. But the ruler of Junagarh announced accession of its State to Pakistan. The will of the people was utterly ignored while the accession to Pakistan was announced. There were communal riots and flight of lakhs of Hindus out of Junagarh. A referendum was held in Junagarh and neighbouring States in February 1948. Only a handful of

people voted in favour of accession to Pakistan. This resulted in accession of Junagarh to India.

Problem of Jammu and Kashmir was peculiar in nature. While the majority of the population was Muslim, the ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, was a Hindu. He, therefore, made up his mind to remain independent by not joining any of the dominions. But by October 1947, Pakistan initiated an all-out invasion of Kashmir. Many areas of Kashmir were captured by the invading Pakistani forces. It was at this stage that Maharaja Hari Singh agreed to accede to India. In turn, Indian Government agreed to send its troops to Kashmir to halt the advance of Pakistani forces. While India accepted the accession, Pakistan was insisting on plebiscite. Indian armed forces stopped the advance of Pakistan troops, and at some locations, pushed them back also. With the UN intervening and forcing a cease-fire, the line of actual control virtually became the international border with Pakistan.

There were many aspects of integration and re-organisation of the princely States. Some of the important aspects are as under:

(a) First problem was merger of smaller States into the bigger ones. Orissa and Chhattisgarh were the first to be merged. The merger was negotiated by Sardar Patel in December 1947. These States became part of Orissa and Central Provinces, respectively, after merger. Next merger was that of Deccan States numbering 17. They were merged with Bombay in March 1948; Kolhapur was merged later. In 1948, Gujarat States, numbering 289, were merged with Bombay Presidency. In May 1949, Baroda was also merged. Similarly, in 1948 and 1949 various States of U.P., Punjab, West Bengal, Assam and Madras were merged in respective States. The merger terms were almost identical, making these States part and parcel of the Provinces to which they were merged.

(b) Another type of integration was the merger of States into Centrally-administered areas. This was done in case of Himachal Pradesh, Kutch, Vindhya Pradesh, Bhopal and Tripura. These areas/territories were created as Centrally-administered territories by merging very small, but a large number of States with lesser population.

(c) Yet another type of integration was union of States. United States of Kathiawar and United States of Matsaya are two such examples. Pepsu in Punjab was yet another such union. United States of Rajasthan was the largest of such unions.

(d) A States Reorganisation Commission was set up by the government with a view to examine objectively the question of re-organisation of States with a view to foster the well-being of the people of the States as well as that of the nation as a whole. Mr Fazal Ali was appointed the Chairman of the Commission, which submitted its report on September 30, 1955.

(e) Accordingly, the Government of India enacted States Reorganisation Act, 1956 creating new States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Madras. Mysore State and Bombay State were reorganised by adding certain new territories from the neighbouring States. States of Madhya Pradesh was also created while States of Rajasthan and Punjab were broadened by reorganisation.

Descriptive Questions

Bandhs and Public

Q. A recent judgement of a High Court has held 'Bandhs' as illegal and unconstitutional. Give your views, two each, for and against the judgement.

Ans. No doubt, if processions or demonstrations are a nuisance, bandhs are a virtual assault on the citizen's daily life. With all modes of transport off the road, shops and offices deserted or closed, under coercion or threat of violence, a law-abiding citizen is left to fend for himself in case of emergency or unexpected development. Surely, in such a situation where an individual (or individuals) feels totally helpless for no fault of his, a drastic remedy was needed and the judgement has come as a whiff of relief to the harassed and harried citizens.

Forcing people to remain confined to their homes or compel others who arrive on airports, railway-stations and bus-stands, after long and urgent journeys, to cool their heels till the 'bandh' is over, is an open violation of their fundamental rights of free movement and meetings. Bandhs are a form of blackmail and potential thuggery. Political parties and their hirelings enforce them by threat and intimidation, which no civilised society can afford to tolerate for long. In the name of people's welfare and fighting injustice, all bandhs perpetrate and perpetuate a culture and climate of 'might is right'. Since most bandhs throw life out of gear and hold the society to ransom, they should have no place in the polity, as long as other channels of protest, agitation and disapproval are open.

What the critics of bandhs say, carries weight. But in the parliamentary democracy like ours, when the 'powers-that-be' become apathetic towards the problems of the people, there is, perhaps, no alternative but to go in for some drastic as well as dramatic form of protest. If

Gandhiji used Satyagraha to bring the callous and cruel British rulers to their knees, the present-day organisers are forced to organise bandhs to focus attention on the burning issues of rising pricing and unemployment, corruption and criminalisation of politics, extortions, kidnappings and collapsing law and order, besides a host of other irritants that the rulers prefer to ignore.

More often than not, even a mother does not feed her baby unless the latter cries and protests. Similarly, the rulers who talk from the ivory towers and thrive on promises and pledges have to be jolted out of their slumber so that they can see the writing on the wall and mend the matters before it is too late to remedy the damage. Organising a bandh is the last choice of those who swear by people's well-being and this right or option of political parties, trade unions and others cannot be usurped by anyone, howsoever strong he or she may be.

Corruption and our Polity

Q. 'Corruption has assumed dangerous dimensions in our polity.' Express your views based on reading, experience and observation on the burning topic of the day.

Ans. Consumerism, corruption and criminalisation comprise a terrible triangle of our polity, each angle of which portends dubious and dangerous dimensions. Both the young and the old, the literate and the unlettered, are aware of the murky malaise that is eating into the vitals of our socio-economic and political health but, as silent sufferers, they are confused to suggest any ready-made or quick-fix remedy to cure the deadly disease.

A scam or scandal a day seems to have become a norm. Even the judiciary, seized of so many corrupt cases in high places, has

to spend much of its precious time writing eloquent testimonials on corruption. Corruption and criminality are rampant because the criminal and the corrupt go about their deeds happily, knowing fully well that even if they are caught, it will take roughly twenty years or more before they are found guilty.

The growing cult of consumerism, that finds new converts in every segment of our polity every day, has fanned and further fuelled the fire of corruption. Our attitude towards consumerism that supports and sustains corruption, is equally responsible for an all-pervasive climate of corruption and criminalisation. The press and the electronic media often put those who indulge in conspicuous consumption on a high pedestal. It goes in the name of fashion and an elite lifestyle. The glitterati is invariably projected as icons to be emulated. When money is scarce to come by for the ordinary mortals, the easiest way to jump the queue is to make hay while the sun shines.

Stupendously soaked in consumerism-cum-corruption, and woefully wanting in compassion and commitment all those who are something or somebody in the polity, seem rushing heedlessly on the perilous path that terminates only in moral morbidity and spiritual sterility. Whereas the erring course of a satellite or rocket in space can be corrected by scientists and others on earth, there appears no such wherewithal available with us to fight the menace of corruption.

Work Culture and Youth

Q. Suggest three effective measures to inculcate the spirit of work culture among the youth of India. Say how the measures suggested by you would be effective indeed.

Ans. If the countries like Germany and Japan have risen like the legendary Phoe-

nix, from the ashes on the economic horizon of the world, the credit for this roaring revival and resurrection goes to the youth, who rose to the occasion and worked day and night, not under coercion but out of conviction, to make their respective countries the first-rate economic powers. Nearer home, some of the smaller East Asian countries have taken stupendous strides on the road to economic resurgence and restructuring. Here too youth played a decisive role in changing the face of their slow and sluggish economies. If, in India, we have lagged behind on the socio-economic front, the fault lies not in our stars but in our attitude towards work, that needs both conviction and commitment on the part of our youth. The following measures, if taken in the right earnest, can go a long way in infusing a new spirit and awareness

The young minds in their impressionable period of growth and development, whether in schools, colleges and universities, should be exposed to the wonders that work and only work can weave in this world. For this the teachers at all stages of education have to set personal examples, not by precepts but practices alone. Unfortunately, our youth has been led to believe that soft jobs, sustained by security of service and immune from responsibility and accountability, are the end of all education. This impression has to go and this can be done by making most of the jobs, both in public (State) and private sectors, contractual and not permanent.

While entering into wage or salary revision agreements with trade unions or staff associations, the principles of 'accountability' and 'no work, no pay' should be got incorporated. Workers, officials and employees of all other categories should not be allowed to have the best of both the worlds. The policy and practice of equating both workers and shirkers should be given up. Unless we enforce the cult of 'work and discipline' in our work-places, the benefits of liberalisation are going to elude us. In order to become competent and equal partners of globalisation, the concept of hard work has to be given a concrete shape and no other segment of our polity except the Indian youth can perform this difficult but rewarding task.

If the young Indian professionals, skilled as well as non-skilled, can work relentlessly in foreign lands, why shouldn't they perform as well at home, is the moot point. Work conditions need to be improved and the youth properly motivated and mobilised in the challenging task of improving both their living conditions as well as augmenting the national income

Disappearance of Entertainment

Q. If all the modes of entertainment in the world disappear, what would happen? Give three important consequences if such a situation takes place.

Ans Various forms of entertainment, both traditional as well as modern, have always rendered mundane life pleasant for all sections of human society. God forbid, if all modes of entertainment or diversion become extinct, the following consequences will fall

Having worked hard during the week, one looks ahead to the holidays to be spent at a place where entertainment comes by for a pittance. The entire pattern and purpose of life will take a nose dive, once the

world of entertainment vanishes before our very eyes.

Those whose artistic talent is always restive to come out, will be left high and dry. Creative faculties that have given immortal master-pieces to the world since the dawn of history, will remain buried within the confines of human psyche, because all forums of expression, whether dance or drama, poetry or painting, literature or performing arts, television or electronic juggling and the like, will become memories or relics of the past life.

Millions of those engaged in the entertainment industry like films, television, theatre, song and music, *et al*, will become jobless and joyless overnight. With no entertainment anywhere in sight, spare time, or leisure, will become another source of irritation, besides the normal pin-pricks that one gets during day-to-day contacts, conflicts and contradictions. The contribution of ages in the creative fields will also come to a naught

There is also a possibility of rise in frustration-related crime. Entertainment being a big reliever of stress, the cases of those with mental problems and blood pressure will increase manifold

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El Nino and Its Effects

El Nino is a complex weather system that appears every few years, bringing droughts, floods and other weather extremes to numerous parts of the globe. This system involves ocean and atmospheric conditions that cover more than a quarter of the globe and affect weather in places as far apart as Australia, the Philippines, India, Canada and Peru. El Nino, which occurs every three to seven years, is the most important recurring feature of year to year variations in global climate, apart from the change of seasons.

Until the late 1950's, climatologists believed that the coastal El Nino warming was a local occurrence. In 1957, however, when scientists monitored the ocean worldwide, they discovered that the ocean warming off Peru was not just a local event. The warm surface waters actually extended westward along the equator more than a quarter of the way around the globe.

This discovery caught the attention of Jacob Bjerknes, a distinguished meteorologist at the University of California at Los Angeles. His studies in the late 1950's and the 1960's revealed that widespread warmings and coolings of the sea surface in the eastern and central Pacific alternated regularly. Bjerknes also discovered that the Pacific ocean warmings usually coincided with the warmings that occurred off the coast of Peru. In the late 1960's, Bjerknes connected the ocean warming to large shifts in the rainfall patterns across the tropical Pacific and broad changes in the circulation of air currents above the Pacific.

From his findings, Bjerknes realized that changes in surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific were linked to a broader global climate pattern. This pattern had been discovered by British meteorologist Gilbert Walker almost 50 years earlier. Walker had discovered that year to year variations in India's monsoon rainfall were tied to various climate changes around the world. His main finding was that the

average atmospheric surface pressure over the Indian Ocean and the central tropical Pacific changed slowly in opposite directions over periods of a few years. Walker called this see-saw of rising and falling atmospheric pressure the Southern Oscillation.

Bjerknes theorised that the recurring large-scale Pacific warmings are part of the Southern Oscillation. He proposed that what scientists had been calling El Ninos were simply one feature of the much larger warmings. Since then, studies have proven this, showing that El Ninos are part of a huge climate system involving both the atmosphere and ocean. Climatologists now call this global pattern the El Nino/Southern Oscillation cycle, or the ENSO cycle. Some experts use the term El Nino to denote the warm phase of the ENSO cycle, and the term La Nina (Spanish for little girl) to denote the cold ENSO phase.

How an El Nino develops

As scientists now understand it, the driving force behind the ENSO cycle is the enormous amount of heat that periodically builds in the western Pacific Ocean along the equator. The upper 200 meters of water contains most of the heat in this region. This warm layer becomes thinner in the eastern Pacific, and, in some areas, disappears. This occurs because the base of the warm surface water, a layer of water called a thermocline, rises toward the surface in the eastern Pacific. The thermocline is a thin transition zone where warm surface temperatures fall rapidly to the much lower temperatures in the layer of water that extends to the ocean bottom.

As the ENSO cycle progresses, the thermocline sways slowly up and down in opposite directions in the western and eastern equatorial Pacific. This swaying resembles a giant see-saw with its fulcrum in the central Pacific. During El Nino

conditions, the thermocline tips downward in the eastern Pacific and rises in the western Pacific.

The ocean and atmosphere regulate the ENSO cycle together. During the cold phase of the ENSO cycle, for example, trade winds blow west from the coast of South America across the Pacific Ocean along the equator. These winds create friction on the sea surface, actually pushing the surface water westward. As the warm surface waters move west, cold waters rise to replace them. The westward trade winds and accompanying surface currents, thus, keep the warm water in the western Pacific. There, the pool of warm surface water heats the air, which rises and condenses high in the atmosphere into storm clouds that bring torrential rain.

As the ENSO cycle shifts to its warm, El Nino phase, the trade winds weaken. The weaker winds create less friction with the surface, which leads to weaker westward surface currents. As the two forces that keep the warm surface water in the western Pacific falter, the warm water begins to move east, bringing with it clouds and rain. Air currents rising from the warm water alter the circulation patterns of strong winds in the upper troposphere (the layer of Earth's atmosphere that extends from about 10 kilometers to about 16 kilometers above the Earth). The winds disturb atmospheric circulation over wide areas of the globe, altering weather in many places.

Scientists still do not fully understand how one phase of the ENSO cycle turns into another. They do not know why the trade winds weaken, for instance, or what triggers particularly severe swings in the cycle. Some experts believe that changes in the ENSO cycle result from the change of seasons or from the complex way in which surface winds affect ocean currents.

El Ninos are of great interest because of their effect on the world's weather. The 1991-92 El Nino was relatively mild, but

on rare occasions, perhaps every century or two, an unusually severe El Nino occurs. The most recent of these occurred during 1982-1983. Worldwide, it caused an estimated \$13 billion in damage. Historical records of flooding, droughts, and crop failures show that the 1982-1983 El Nino was the most prolonged and catastrophic episode recorded since the late 1800's, worse than the two previous severe El Ninos in 1925 and 1891.

Besides affecting weather, severe El Ninos can have other effects. These include a small but measurable slowing of Earth's rotation. Although atmospheric scientists do not completely understand how this slowing occurs, they believe that it involves widespread changes in the direction and speed of surface and high level winds. These changes temporarily disrupt the normal amount of friction that winds create with Earth's surface, altering the pressure of Earth's atmosphere across large mountain ranges and in other areas.

A much more noticeable environmental effect of severe El Ninos is the widespread disruption of marine life in the Pacific Ocean. The cold coastal waters that rise from the depths off Peru and Ecuador carry nutrients such as nitrates that support phytoplankton (tiny marine plants), which in turn help feed large numbers of animals such as birds and fish. When the thermocline deepens in the eastern Pacific, during a major El Nino, the colder, nutrient rich waters cannot rise to the surface. This drastically reduces the food supply in the surface layer. The effect of the nutrient shortage can progress up the food chain through fish, birds and marine mammals, greatly reducing their populations. For example, a strong El Nino in 1972, followed by the 1982-1983 episode and combined with the effects of overfishing, nearly wiped out the Peruvian fishing industry, once the most productive fishery of the world's oceans.

Nature's records of past El Ninos

Scientists can also find records of past El Ninos in nature. These records take the form of growth rings in trees and changes in the annual accumulation of snow on

glaciers and icecaps in high mountains. Another type of natural record is the growth rate of corals.

Coral reefs contain annual growth rings similar to the growth rings of trees. Coral polyps cannot exist in water colder than about 18 °C or warmer than 30°C. In a year of favourable conditions, the large numbers of coral polyps create a wide band of new coral. Unfavourable water temperatures can slow coral growth or kill the polyps, causing narrow growth rings or none at all. To study El Nino, scientists examine coral from the central and eastern Pacific. They first look for narrow growth rings, which may indicate a year when El Nino warmed the seawater beyond the coral's tolerance. Then the scientists determine the year of the narrowing by counting the rings.

Monitoring El Ninos

Increased scientific observation of current weather conditions has helped scientists fill in many of the gaps in their knowledge of El Ninos. Improved monitoring, data collection and communications for example made the 1982-1983 El Nino the first in which the public learned of developments as they happened, rather than months later.

Meteorological satellites are key to the ability to monitor the atmosphere and ocean over the Pacific. Satellites can measure the infrared (heat) radiation emitted by ocean water, as well as detect precipitation and monitor wind circulation over the tropics. Such data enable scientists to track atmospheric and ocean conditions for the first hint that an El Nino may be developing.

Predicting El Ninos

The aim of some meteorologists is to learn enough about El Ninos, to regularly forecast them as much as a year in advance. With such forecasts, governments, businesses and individuals could develop strategies to cope with crop failures and other economic problems that El Ninos may cause.

One method of forecasting is to observe how often certain weather

patterns develop in one place after particular ocean and atmospheric conditions occur elsewhere. If certain ocean and atmospheric conditions seem to produce the same weather often enough, scientists assume that those conditions will continue to produce similar weather. This method of prediction does not require a very thorough understanding of why weather in one region of the globe affects weather far removed from that region. It is adequate for predicting typical weather fluctuations but often not very useful for predicting exceptions to normal patterns.

The second and more sophisticated forecast method is based on an understanding of how weather develops. The laws of physics govern changes in Earth's atmosphere and oceans and they can be expressed in the form of mathematical equations. These equations are not solvable exactly and even the largest computers cannot process the number and complexity of equations needed to describe in detail a system as vast and complex as the ENSO cycle. Climate modelers build simplified models that capture the most essential aspects of the ENSO cycle. By entering data about actual conditions into these computer models, the experts attempt to predict how climate patterns will develop.

TOPICAL ESSAYS

(For candidates appearing in I.A.S., P.C.S. & other higher grade Exams.)

by
A Panel of Experts

KHANNA BROTHERS
(Publishers)

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■ EDUCATION CONTEST ENTRIES

Reforming Education



Neelima Sharma did her B.Sc. and is now doing a course in computers. She lives in Delhi.

I was very interested in science but the way it was taught was pathetic. The spirit of enquiry soon vanished and we had to mug up a lot of information. At the end of three years I found I was competing for the same courses that the arts students were. But they seemed so much better off than us. My years of slogging were thus a waste. Perhaps science courses should be shut down since only medical or engineering streams are considered good enough.



Seema Kumra is doing her graduation with economic honours in Delhi.

Every course after graduation requires one to pass entrance exams. So graduation is just a way to acquire a degree and nobody is interested in learning the subjects. Agreed, there are polytechnics and vocational courses, but many of them do not have the same respectability as a college. It is time we took note of the changing scenario and discarded the hypocritical degree system.



J.R. Dash is in the army. His hobbies are cricket, music and reading.

There are a number of students in India who want to improve their career but do not have the means to go to a college. They have to rely on education by correspondence. Unfortunately, correspondence courses are very bad and do not guide the students properly. I feel that such courses should be improved, so that disadvantaged people can also develop themselves.



Hansimran Singh lives in Panchkula, Haryana. She is a keen debater and likes to write.

The student teacher ratio has grown from the ideal 1:20 to an amazing 1:60. This should be reduced. The examination oriented approach of our education system has also to be changed. Teachers are so busy trying to finish their courses that they cannot cater to the needs of students. Only if the present system changes will future generations be able to have a meaningful existence in schools and colleges.



Preeti Mishra lives in Nakconagar in Orissa and is doing a course in computers.

Being in a good school is very important. I learnt values of courteous manners and honesty from school. I developed an interest in dance, music, art and clay modelling because facilities were available. Every subject was taught in a charming way. If only a similar system existed in colleges and universities too!



Ajay Chutani is doing his B.Sc. and lives in Karnal in Haryana.

Degrees of Indian universities do not get respect abroad. This is really sad and shows our pathetic standards. The teachers are to blame for this and it is a pity that they do not do anything to remove the shortcomings in the educational institutes. Rather than condemn politics, teachers themselves are engrossed in it, and education takes a back seat.



Manish Kumar, who lives in Patna, is a post-graduate in Geology.

The education system has given us lack of confidence, broken dreams, insecure future and vast unemployment. Till the political system is improved and the corrupt thrown out, the education system cannot be improved.



Mou Saha
wants to do
M.A. in
clinical
psychology.
She lives in
Calcutta.

Considering that most Indians are illiterate, whatever the system has given me is by no means meagre. True, there is politics and favouritism, but things are not all that bad. The syllabus should be framed pragmatically and only a concerted crusade against illiteracy will help enrich India's human capital.



**Bishnu
Ranjan Saikia**
works as a
Agricultural
Extension
Officer in
Assam.

The present system has failed to inculcate any sense of responsibility on the students. There is a small elite group of highly educated persons while majority remains illiterate or holds a worthless degree. Can such system last for long? We will be in turmoil if the present education system is not improved.



**Sunetra
Batabyal** lives
in Allahabad,
where she is
doing her
B.Com.

I find that our university is heavily biased towards a few affluent students who can afford to buy marks. Many students appear in the exams without attending regular classes. The soaring expenses of professional courses like MBA, make such specialised education inaccessible for middle class

students. Those who can, leave the country. This is hardly a healthy sign. Unfortunately, not a single thought is spared for improving our education system.



Tom Joseph,
from
Kottayam in
Kerala, works
with the IAF.

It requires lakhs of rupees to turn out an IIT graduate. Yet, the graduates either leave the country or look for managerial jobs. What a waste of engineering talent! It is time we stopped pampering the elite institutions and did something for the poorer people instead.



**Mahua
Mukherjee**
has done her
M.A. and
preparing for
competitive
exams. She
lives in Delhi.

After years of education we are nowhere in life. Either we must prepare for competitions or take training from private institutes in things like computers or public relations. Why can't formal education take into account these needs, so that by the time a person finishes his education, he is fit for something at least? Private institutes are serving a great need. The government has clearly failed in providing proper education.



Aditi Garg
is doing her
M.Com. and
lives in
Patiala in
Punjab.

Although there are many shortcomings in our education system,

we must be optimistic. Things can really improve if minimum educational qualifications are laid for politicians. Teaching jobs should be given only to those who have an aptitude to teach. The curriculum should be changed so that it is more socially relevant.



**Debashish
Ghosh** is a
student of
engineering
in Nagpur in
Maharashtra.

Private professional colleges are money making devices. The faculty is inadequate and unqualified and most teachers are interested in getting tuitions for themselves. It is a wonder how the government allows such 'donation colleges' to continue. I think it is because of officials acting hand in glove with the institutes. The student is the sufferer. My advice to those seeking admission in such colleges is don't. Get into a good institute and if you can't, do something else.



Pradesh.

R. Vardhani
has done her
B.Sc. and is
now seeking
admission to
MBA. She
lives in
Secunderabad
in Andhra

I joined B.Sc. because everybody said so, but soon discovered I had no aptitude for science. When I decided to do MBA people ridiculed me, but I realised I was answerable to myself and not to others. I had wasted years of my life by listening to others. There are thousands of young people like me who are pushed into doing something which they do not want to. Parents do not realise the potential of their children. My advice is to do what you really want to and not get carried away by free advice.



**A.N.
Ramaswamy**
is a student of
engineering
in Thanjavur
district of
Tamil Nadu.

One of the dreadful practices being followed in India is caste-based reservation 'policy' for admission to professional colleges. Many deserving candidates lose their chance because of caste. This is perpetuating the caste system and is certainly not leading us towards a homogenous healthy society. I think we have found way where down trodden get opportunity to rise without the system being compromised.



**Bhawna
Sharma** is
doing her
B.A. in Jaipur.
She likes to
paint.

Our education system is passive and mechanical. Things are loaded in the mind of the student to be reproduced during exams. The emphasis must shift from development of the memory to the development of personality. There should be sound moral instruction as well.



Shiraz Khan
studies in
class IX and
lives in
Sonebhadra
in U.P.

The heavy curriculum and syllabus has hampered our development. There is hardly any time to enjoy our childhood. There is something greatly wrong in the present education system!





Biotechnology

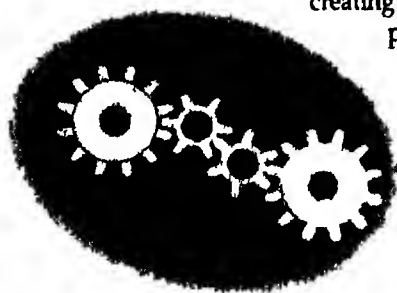
THE NEW REVOLUTION

FOR CENTURIES, man has learned to live with nature. But the desire to change or to modify it has always existed: the need to grow more food, the search for tastier and healthier varieties, and vegetables that do not rot. On a human level, there is the need to look younger, live longer, have perfect babies and conquer disease.

Biotechnology makes all this possible. By tinkering with natural methods, we can overcome many shortcomings of crops and, maybe, even humans. So fast has this technology developed over the last few years that it is almost a revolution. Hardly a week goes by without news of fresh advancements. A sheep has already been cloned and it is just a matter of time before man will be able to alter his ownself and learn to manage natural changes that we take for granted today.

Genetic surgery could soon help geneticists to delete undesirable genes, insert others and mechanically alter them, fore-ordaining the physical and mental characteristics of the individual at the molecular level.

Our cover feature describes these developments. It also touches on issues like biopiracy and the means adopted by developed countries to corner traditional knowledge. We describe international trends, the challenges ahead and what India can do. We touche upon the ethical issues also, whether man has the right to play God and alter what nature has so generously given. Are there hidden dangers lurking in the biotechnology lab?



Recognising the potential of the new technology, the developed world has moved in, not only by investing big money in it but also by creating a strict regime of patents and intellectual property rights which protects the research being done. Life forms are being patented in a very big way around the globe, making others forever dependent on the patent holders. Very often, traditional knowhow is being manipulated to get the patents, cheating communities which may have used the knowledge for centuries.

This is the shape of the brave new world taking shape before us. The promises and the prospects are both unlike what we may have ever imagined before.

The Second Green Revolution

There is little doubt that to meet the requirements of the growing world population, a quantum jump in food production is needed. The need for a second green revolution is here and it will undoubtedly be met with biotechnological research. We already eat engineered food like soybeans and new fruits like the *kinnow*, which is a hybrid, and has become increasingly popular.

What we are looking at today is a revolution that will make crops grow faster and withstand more environmental adversity. In Malaysia, attempts are being made to develop varieties of acacia and eucalyptus that can be logged in 5-8 years, compared to the 15-20 years that it takes now. Maturing of teak has already been reduced from 20 years to 15. In China, scientists isolated the protein that exists in Arctic fish that enables them to live in very cold water and inserted it into beet DNA. The vegetable can now grow when temperatures fall to as much as -6°C . The beet growing season can thus be extended into the winter, for greater output.

Rice yields can also be prolonged. At the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines, a gene from an African variety has been introduced in high-yield varieties which makes the plant resistant to a fungus disease. Attempts are being made to isolate the genes from a fast growing variety of rice into high-yield ones, which would make the crop ideal for flood-prone areas. Such engineered crops are the hopes of the future as agricultural growth has stagnated in most parts of the world. Countries like China and

India, with large populations to feed, see hope in the new varieties.

There could be hidden dangers as well. Bio-engineered foods sometimes cause a number of problems. The foods may be better looking and tastier, but may inadvertently get unforeseen toxic qualities. They could also give allergies. In America, scientists faced an allergy problem when the soybean plant was altered.

But, agriculture is just one of the areas that is affected by technology. Playing with animals and humans is next, and already attempts are being made to combine animal and human genes.

Xenotransplants

Animals are today exploited most cruelly by man, but one saving grace has been that the blood and organs of animals are not interchangeable with those of man. Had this been possible, man would have raised animals merely for their body parts, inflicting much more cruelty on them than he does today.

That, however, may soon become a reality. Xenotransplanting is the practice of transferring animal organs and tissues to humans and a number of trials have been conducted. They have not been successful so far. The bone marrow of an AIDS patient was transferred to a baboon in San Francisco and in Assam a doctor reportedly tried to transplant the heart of a pig in a man. A mouse was used to grow a human ear, raising hopes that human tissues could be transplanted in animals and grown, to be grafted back. So far these experiments have not met with success, because the human body's immune system rejects the organs.

With increased experiments the world over, it may perhaps be just a matter of time before a way is found out to fool the immune system. Should that happen, animals will be used commercially either to lend their own organs or to grow organs for man. This technique may help get over the acute shortage of human organ-donors, giving hope to millions of sick and dying patients.

Should such experiments be allowed? First, is it moral to use animals in this way, as factories for humans? Second and more dangerous, there may exist a real possibility that such operations will cause virulent infections to cross the barrier between animals and people. Infections such as bacteria and worms have spread from animals to humans in the past; the most recent examples may

WE LIVE

on the threshold of an amazing revolution. A revolution that starts in laboratories and gives us the power to play

God. Indeed, biotechnology is recognised as the basis of a second green revolution worldwide, to feed a growing population. More frightening is the prospect of creating new life forms or changing our own selves. By suppressing or enhancing certain genes in our bodies, we could change our appearance and control the type of babies that we might have.

be the scare of the mad cow disease last year and even the HIV, which is said to have crossed into humans from monkeys. Similar infections become a distinct possibility if organs are transplanted to humans.

Worse, infections may cross to human barriers hidden in animal cells. They may be harmless in animals but may multiply in humans, since the immune systems are not the same. For example, simian haemorrhagic fever is harmless to its natural hosts in Africa, but is deadly for the rhesus monkey, the related species in Asia. There is no knowing what it would do to humans.

It is usually argued that the risk is small. The possibility of even one virus breaking the animal-human barrier negates the risks, however small they may seem. The lessons of the HIV should be enough for humans to learn to stop playing with this danger. There are no signs that this is happening and the curiosity of researchers is too great to be harnessed by such considerations. The hope of prolonging human life through an endless supply of organs from animals will certainly result in more intensive research in this area.

Headless bodies

There is another mind-boggling possibility as well. British scientists recently reported that they had succeeded in creating a headless frog embryo in the laboratory, by manipulating certain genes to suppress the development of the head. The technique could pave the way for creating human headless bodies and thereby to grow hearts, kidneys, livers and other organs which could be transplanted in patients.

The realisation of the concept of organ husbandry would enable man to assume control on something that belonged exclusively to Mother Nature. The idea is, however, revolting. When Robin Cook first published *Coma*, it sent shock waves for describing a hospital where brain-dead patients were kept so that their organs could be farmed. The idea of creating headless clones of a patient and discarding them after taking out their hearts or kidneys is likewise quite abhorrent.

Alternately, instead of growing a full human embryo, it could be possible to suppress all the parts of the body except the part one wants, plus the heart and blood circulation. The logical step would be to set up factories with headless human clones that could deliver organs on demand.

Even human blood could be manufactured in this way, getting over shortages in blood banks across the world.

While all this may become possible in the near future, the question arises whether human life is worth preserving through genetic processes, xenotransplants and headless clones. In God's plan, a man lives his life and dies, making way for others. Now, one has the means to prolong one's life indefinitely. Ethically, perhaps, there is nothing wrong with these ideas. The public may also get over with the "Yuk factor", the moral revulsion of playing with life forms in this fashion. One view is also that there are no ethical issues involved since no one is being harmed.

Should Humans be Cloned?

Human cloning has moved to the horizon of possibilities in the near future, after the successful cloning of a sheep. Many scientists agree that it is inevitable that this will happen within our lifetime. But society has to struggle with the moral and ethical issues. The US President, Bill Clinton, called for a moratorium on the use of US government funds for human cloning research. The National Bioethics Advisory Commission recommended that the cloning of a human be made a criminal offence in the US, no matter who pays for it and for what reason it is done. This could result in making of laws not only in the USA but in other countries as well.

The issues are not quite simple as that. For instance, can scientific progress be stopped by enacting laws? In India, determining the sex of an unborn child was made illegal, but the practice flourishes in many States. Similarly, who is to stop human cloning experiments? More important, where does the government draw the line? If it stops all biotech experiments, it may be losing out in a very important field. But, if cloning of mammals is allowed, the cloning of humans is not far away.

In the case of animals, cloning does not attract much debate, though some people do feel that man does not have the right to play with nature. Raising only specific species and cloning them implies the exclusion of other species which are less useful to man. Would it not lead to reduction in biodiversity? And if the cloned species is vulnerable to some disease which we may not be aware of today, would it not jeopardise man's own future? Consequences apart, should man

THE IDEA of creating other beings whose very existence would be to serve the dominant group is morally regressive to most people, amounting to scientific fascism. Whatever may be the opposition, there is little doubt that we are moving towards a situation of controlling our own destinies. By replacing body parts as we go along, it should be possible, theoretically at least, to live as long as we want to, controlling our biological processes as we go along.

The realisation of the concept of organ husbandry would enable man to assume control on something that belonged to Mother Nature.

COVER FEATURE

INDIA WAS successful in challenging the patent granted to *haldi* but will have to keep track of patents the world over if it is not to let the foreign companies take away its traditional knowledge. The stakes are high: publicly listed biotech companies grossed \$13 billion last year and this figure is expected to grow in leaps and bounds.

have the power to control all other life forms and exploit them most cruelly, as he does today?

Bio piracy

The research in biotechnology and the efforts by global corporations to patent genetic material poses a great threat to underdeveloped countries. The danger is that multinational companies will patent genes that communities have used traditionally and then bar them for using them. Patents are granted not only for products but processes as well, so that a poor person may find himself dependent on foreign companies for what has been used for generations.

The Philippines recently cancelled all deals giving multinationals the right to isolate and patent genetic material in the country. Companies cannot look for genetic material without a government permit and without obtaining the consent of affected communities in whose lands the material is found.

India still has to learn to deal with the problem. The country has belatedly woken up now to check the loss of its biodiversity and plans

to introduce a bill in Parliament so that the loss to the nation can be arrested. The Ministry of Environment recently released the report of the Dr M.S. Swaminathan Committee, whose recommendations will form the basis of the draft bill. The proposed legislation will regulate and govern access to biological resources and information. The legislation, says the Ministry of Environment, will provide for establishing a National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees at the national, State and village levels. Perhaps, we need to learn from a country like the Philippines, which has gone ahead and enacted a law without including the useless bureaucracy to slow things down. The basic idea should be to protect rights of local communities and not to create Boards that become dens of political appointments.

Biotech R&D in India

The country has made some steps in the area. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) was established ten years ago and has encouraged pioneering work in the field. Several organisations in India

The Biotechnology Challenge

THE CHALLENGE of the emerging field of biotechnology is two-fold. On the one hand, the country must invest in this field to keep up with developments and not be left behind. The second is to protect the country's biodiversity, since global companies and Indians settled abroad are trying to obtain patents on knowledge which has been used for centuries by us.

The first challenge is to make science more popular in our colleges. The way it is taught, and the subsequent lack of opportunities, results in many budding scientists taking up courses in business management and marketing. Both Delhi and Punjab universities have reported fall in people opting for the science stream. "At the end of three years of slogging, I found myself competing for the same courses as arts students," writes a reader. "It would have been better to take up an arts course and being better prepared than I am now."

One reason for lack of opportunities is that the field of science and research in the country is dominated by government institutes. Research is tied up in bureaucracy, with little relevance to the real world. That is why we have to import technology time and again to make even the simplest of things, despite the fact that there are a number of very reputed scientific institutes in the country. This is all the more dangerous in biotechnology, because firms are patenting the very genes that occur in us and the very plants that we have used for centuries.

The second aspect is trying to protect our genetic and plant wealth. If we do not know the patenting procedures, how can we fight them? Take China's example—it has already drawn some 80,000

patents compared to a mere 3,500 by India. The country, reportedly, has 15,000 training institutes for patents, compared to none in India. No wonder many graduates in India have no idea how patents work and even what they are all about. This lack of knowledge will, undoubtedly, be used by other nations to steal a march over us, pushing us into a second colonialism.

This is evident from the battle for the turmeric patent. It constitutes a traditional cure and is commonly used in Indian households. Yet, two Americans of Indian origin put a claim in the US Patent Office that they had discovered the healing properties of *haldi*. The patent was granted in March, 1995. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) applied for a re-examination and it was cancelled. This was, no doubt, a major victory, but other patents remain, as the patents on *neem* as a pesticide, obtained by a US company. As these patents are legally enforceable in the age of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the country is in a very great danger indeed. Theoretically, a patent on basmati rice means that people in India cannot grow the crop, or even cook it, without paying royalty to the patent holder. This may not seem enforceable today but it does explain the situation that the country is likely to get in. India must start patenting its biological wealth before it is taken away from it.

Few people realise the importance of industrial patents: plant patents cover all plant biological material as well as processes. Whoever sells a component of a patented item is guilty of infringing the patent. Thus, the seeds, tissue, cells and even pollen cannot be sold or used to create more plants.

can now boast of modern facilities. The government is also funding genetic studies of Indian communities through ten centres all over India. The results of some of the research, started a few years earlier, is now showing.

The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi, has devised an inexpensive AIDS test. In Hyderabad, the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology used common salt as an inducer to produce proteins, replacing an imported inducer that costs \$100 per 10 grams.

Another institute, the National Institute of Immunology in New Delhi, is working on anti-cancer drugs and substances that affect immune systems. Research in Delhi University resulted in a process that cures fungal infections without any side effects. The technology has been taken up for commercial applications by Ace Diagnostics, New Delhi, which signed an agreement with the hospital that conducted the trials, the DBT and the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC).

The National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) in Lucknow is working on a project to develop disease resistant variety of cotton. If a new variety of cotton is developed, it will save upto Rs 2,000 crore of the cotton crop, which is destroyed by insects every year.

There are other important initiatives in the country as well. There is a cholera vaccine being developed by the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology in Calcutta and the Institute of Microbial Technology in Chandigarh. The National Institute of Virology in Pune is working on a convenient HIV test kit.

The Future With Biotechnology

Whatever be the ethical questions or the commercial limitations, there is little doubt that biotechnology will result in huge changes on our planet in years to come. Some of these will be seen in the farms and fields, and even forests.

The effect on the human race is also going to be dramatic. First, there will be healthier babies and life expectancy will go up. People suffering from inherited diseases will be able to get over them. As the human genome project gets completed, scientists would have identified the genes that cause certain conditions. For example, the genes causing baldness, breast cancer, obesity, suicide and homosexuality are known today.

Defective genes associated with certain diseases are also known. Though genetic medicine has not been used so far, perhaps in the future, scientists will be able to discover a way to manipulate these genes to get over inherited characteristics. One needn't remain bald or black, for example, if the genes causing these are removed.

Much research is also being conducted to slow the body's ageing clock. Nature has built in a method which makes every individual age and die. This has been the basis of human society. Now, methods are being pursued which slow down these processes. Scientists have found that the tips of chromosomes are capped with a protective substance called telomeres. When a cell divides, the telomeres become shorter and shorter, and after about 100 replications, the cell loses its ability to reproduce. By tinkering with telomeres, it is expected that the ageing process can be slowed down considerably.

The possibilities are indeed mind boggling. Still, genetic medicine is just one aspect. The other is the possibilities raised by cloning. Maybe human clones may not be permitted in the near future, but there may be ways to solve the problems of human organs and blood, which are forever in short supply.

Each of these possibilities are tied up with ethical issues. Creating headless clones, for example, is a revolting idea. As a response to this, Western governments are spending large sums of money to study the ethical, legal, social implications (ELSI) of biotechnology projects.

The human race stands at a crucial crossroad today. None of the technological advancements—in computers, space and any other field—carry such a great potential to change life itself. True, there are dangers of great diseases and even a Jurassic Park-like occurrence, but the quest for scientific knowledge is seldom stopped by such considerations. The ethical issues also may not be very important for many things that may seem revolting today may well become the practice tomorrow. This has happened in the past.

The challenge before countries like India is, not to be left out of this revolution. True, some initiatives have been taken, but a lot more needs to be done to meet the challenge. Tomorrow's world may be controlled by those who have a control over the genes and the very life forms that we take for granted today.



Food Security In Danger

THE BIOTECHNOLOGY

challenge must be met on both fronts by investing in high-tech laboratories and by protecting India's biodiversity through patents. The country must make efforts to get talented people in biotechnology and once they are trained steps should be taken to encourage them to stay in the country.

If India does not do so, the world will take advantage of our patent illiteracy. The farmers of India, who have worked hard for years to achieve food independence, will be let down as they will have to pay royalties to grow the very crops that they have been growing for centuries. The country may be pushed into a worse kind of dependence on the developed countries than we may care to admit.

There is understandably, a rush to patent genes from all over the world and, particularly from Third World countries. Today, genetically engineered varieties of crops like rice, cotton, soybean, cauliflower and cabbage have been patented. Many of the 26 indigenous breeds of Indian cattle are now the property of Western countries. Kerala's Vechur, the world's smallest cattle which requires 1.5 kg of feed per day, has been patented in the UK. India is a prime target of gene prospectors since it has a great plant wealth, waiting to be patented by the developed world.

Clearly, if the country does not do something about the patenting regime to protect its biodiversity it will affect severely its right to grow its own food or raise cattle. The threat is too great, the response, weak.

PERSONALITY & YOU



Keen Interest, Key to Good Memory

DO you have a memory like a sieve? You put things in your mind to be recalled when needed. But your memory plays truant. You feel let down.

At crucial times, you fail to recollect the names of the people, places, dates and birth days of near and dear ones.

How much you can remember depends to some extent on your inborn capacity. It is like eyesight or hearing power. A good memory may be inherited.

In most cases, however, what counts is your zest for a subject. An avid cricket fan reels out statistics concerning his favourite player but draws a blank when questioned about golf.

The more you learn about a subject that fascinates you, the easier it is to pick more. Contrarily, if the subject does not interest you, you have problems memorising it or even remembering it. The pointer is significant.

Everyone retains an amazing number of things in the mind. The vital thing is to be able to recall and reproduce what is there.

We remember things in proportion to our interest in them. This is partly because we observe more keenly, and partly be-

cause our interest makes us dwell on these things more.

The first impression should be clear and definite. Therefore read carefully what you want to remember. Also think over what you have read, dwell on it and allow it to sink in. Above all, try to grasp its significance.

This brings us to the Law of Association. A fact is more easily remembered if it is linked on to the other facts we remember because we are interested in them. The new fact is carried along with what we already know, especially if it is linked with something we constantly have in mind.

Association

If you want to remember the names of people you should take particular interest in a person when you are introduced. Get a picture of him in your mind. What is the colour of his hair, his eyes? Is he tall or short? Observe his dress, does it suggest care or otherwise? Were you told his occupation? Imagine him at it.

Above all train yourself to get an

impression of the sort of person he is and link the name with that person. You will then remember the name easily.

Mental impressions are like a coat of paint. They need time to sink in. It has been proved that much more can be learned by spending an hour a day for six days than by doing six hours' work in one day.

Repetition

If one is learning something by repetition, it is better to repeat it twice a day for six days than to repeat it twelve times in the same day.

On the other hand, if you are learning poetry or prose by heart you will get along faster by tackling a whole poem than by learning a verse or two at a time.

It has been shown experimentally that by reading through a whole poem several times it is memorised more quickly and the impression lasts longer than by learning it in bits.

Keep your eyes open and your brain active. Don't try to learn when you are fatigued. Be determined and practise continually, learning something new and

remembering it. You will be amazed at the ease with which you begin to remember things.

You can jog your memory by clubbing—that is grouping. It means grouping information by a common characteristic.

The principle involved is that bits of information, scattered and unrelated is likely to be lost. If the same information is put or arranged in "sets" or "units" of twos and threes, it becomes operational. It is easier to remember five birds than fifty different animals.

Visual cues prove effective as memory-awakeners. That tall man who looks like a lamp post and you cannot forget him. Visualize the visual cue and you can recall the original information.

It requires not only observation, but also imagination and concentration. You need *imagination* in order to find a good association between two items, and you have to *concentrate* in order to impress this association upon your mind.

Test

ASK your friend whether the numbers on his watch are Roman or Arabic. In spite of the fact that everybody looks a dozen times a day at his watch, you will seldom get the correct answer. Your friend looked, but he did not observe!

Ask him also whether the six on his watch is turned to the right or to the left. He will think of a logical answer, but by checking, he will find that 90% of all watches do not have a six at all, because the place of the six is taken by the second hand.

Think of a room that you visit frequently and try to give an accurate description of it, including all its furniture and fixtures. Afterwards you will be astonished how many items you left out although you saw them so often!

Choose some pictures in a magazine. Look at them for approximately one minute, then put the magazine aside and try to reconstruct the picture.

If you have paper and pencil ready, make an actual drawing. If not, do it mentally. It is most important to go into

as many details as you possibly can. If there are persons in the picture, ask yourself how many males, how many females? How were they dressed? If there was a clock, what time did it indicate?

In all probability, some of your answers will be wrong. If that is the case, look at the same picture again, correct your mistakes mentally and then repeat the entire procedure. You will be amazed how much more accurate your recollection will become after a second look.

While you are sitting in your room you hear countless noises; their origin may be in the house or from the street. Nobody will have any difficulty in recognising a crying baby, a fire-engine, or the horns of cars, but there are many noises of a more subtle nature, and it is good training to try and differentiate among them.

Whenever you recall something that you observed previously, you lay at the same time the foundation for an exercise in imagination.

Imagination

YOU must use your imagination. "Seeing" something with your mind's eye, that you actually saw a short time ago, is the first and easiest step in this direction.

Try to "visualise" something that you did not actually observe; you only heard or read about it.

A few lines in any newspaper, novel or travelogue will be sufficient. Read them once, then put the book or paper aside and use your imagination to visualise in pictures that you have just read. Don't be satisfied with generalities, but "see" as many details as you can.

Unfortunately, most of us, grown-ups, do not have the lively interest in our work. We allow distractions to interrupt our work. In other words, we fail to take interest which means we have weak mental stamina.

Instead of poring over the task in hand, we let our mind go a wool-gathering. We invent excuses, "There is no hurry; I can take it up later when I am in the proper mood." The mood may not

come at all. The interest fades. Memory blurs.

Environmental distractions come as excuses and we shrink from the task of polishing memory mirror. The neighbour is playing his TV set at top pitch. There is a loudspeaker blaring right near your room. Hawkers pass through the street, loudly hawking their wares. All these stab your memory. The solution does not lie in fretting and fuming. Build a strong mental wall. Do not let distractions penetrate your mind. Your memory's retention power will improve considerably.

Effort

TO cultivate memory, you do not need "Memory-Plus". What you need is "Plus Effort". Feed your memory, not with fleeting, anaemic data, but strong data, capable of leaving its impact.

Remind yourself of the cost you have to pay while you lack it. Besides the nagging inner voice, you lose respect in the field of your activity. You get known for slipshod work.

You have the power within you to do as best as any other but you have never fed your mind. Thus, the images produced are vague and blurred.

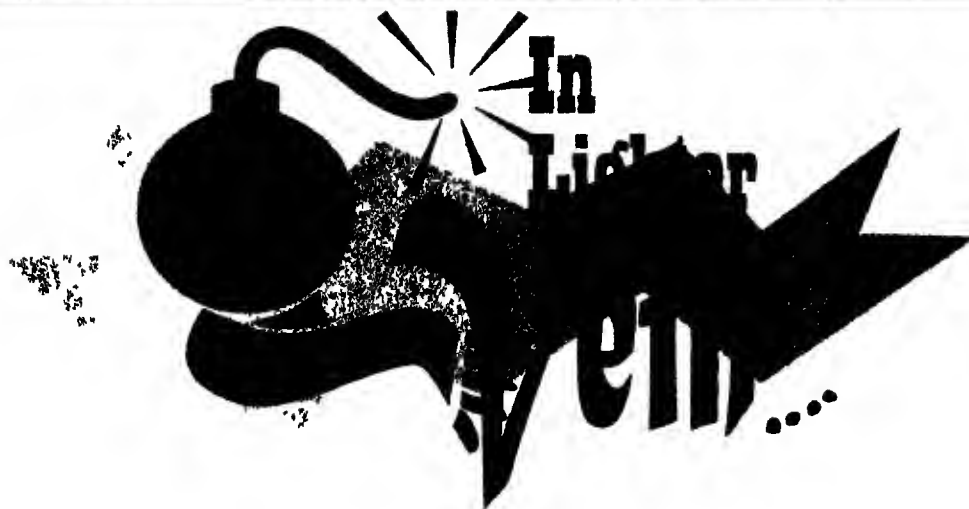
Shed the false notion that memory is called for only in the spheres of creative work or crucial examinations and interviews. That an ordinary task does not require it. The fact is that there is no field of human activity which does not require the play of concentration.

Learn to hold one thought or mental picture and to keep out all the rest. This is the essence of it.

Turn your thoughts inwards and see, in your imagination, a blank white screen stretched across your inner field of consciousness.

Relax and see the blank screen; there is no image on it. Act as a projection machine and throw the image you want on the blank screen. Once the picture is formed, ring down the curtain.

"The true art of memory is the art of attention", says Johnson.



Living on Debt

GREAT men of letters often run in debt. Greatness and debt have a certain relation to each other. Great men have great debts because they are trusted. So have great nations!

Spiritless men have no debts. They are not trusted. Men in debt remain in lime-light. Their names gain currency. The man who has no debts slips through the world unnoticed while he who is in everybody's books has all eyes upon him. His health is enquired after and if he goes to foreign countries, his return is anxiously awaited.

Whatever may be said in praise of debt, it has a very seedy side. The debtor pales at every knock at his door. His friends grow cool, and his relatives shun him. He becomes morose and edgy and loses the joy of his living.

He pleads for time. He tries a friend or a relative, but all that he gets is a shrug, leer, on a repulse.

Sheridan is the hero of debt. He *lived* on others' money. Taylor, of the Opera-House, used to say that if he took off his hat to Sheridan in the street, it would cost him fifty pounds but if he stopped to speak to him, it would cost a hundred!

Poet William Cowper used to say that he never knew a poet who was not thriftless. He proudly included himself in the list. No wonder, he was constantly out-running the creditor! And quite often the courtable!

With the help of good management and a clear notion of economical matters, he contrived in three months to spend the income of a twelve-

month! No mean achievement.

Ben Jonson was often embarrassed, and always poor, borrowing twenty schillings at a time. Greene, Peele, and Marlowe lived lives of dissipation, and died in poverty.

Poet Churchill was imprisoned for debt and extravagance. He was as spendthrift of money as of wit. Chatterton, reduced to a state of starvation and despair, poisoned himself. Sir Richard Steele was rarely out of debt.

At Sterne's death, a subscription was raised for the support of his wife and daughter.

Goldsmith's relations raised £ 50, and sent him to the Temple to study law, but he got no further than Dublin, where he gambled away all

the money.

He started on a tour of Europe with nothing but his flute. He begged and played, until he came back to England, as poor as he had gone. He himself used to say that there was hardly a kingdom in Europe in which he was not a debtor!

When he went to Boswell's dinner the clothes belonged to his tailor! He could borrow a guinea and toss it away to a beggar. At his death, he owed two thousand pounds to others. Dr Johnson observed, "Was a poet ever so trusted before?"

Goldsmith enjoyed swimming in debt. The first money he earned as a tutor—it was all the money he had—was spent in buying a horse! Was it not a classic case of buying the horse before the cart?

Quantitative Aptitude

1. The angle of elevation of the top of a tower at a distance 500 meters from the foot is 30° . The height of the tower is:

- (a) $250\sqrt{3}$ meters (b) $\frac{500}{\sqrt{3}}$ meters
(c) $500\sqrt{3}$ meters (d) 250 meters

2. The angles of elevation of the top of a tower from two points distant a and b ($a > b$) from its foot and in the same straight line from it are 30° and 60° . The height of the tower is:

- (a) $\frac{a}{b}$ (b) $\sqrt{\frac{a}{b}}$ (c) ab (d) \sqrt{ab}

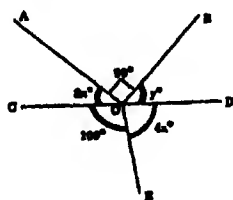
3. If the angles of depression and elevation of the top of a tower of height h from the top and bottom of a second tower are x and y respectively, then the height of the second tower is:

- (a) $h(\cot y + \cot x)$ (b) $h(\tan x + \tan y)$
(c) $h(1 + \tan x \cot y)$ (d) $h(\tan y \cot x + 1)$

4. A man on the top of a bamboo pole observes that the angles of depression of the base and the top of another pole are 60° and 30° respectively. If the second pole stands 5 m above the ground level, then the height of the bamboo pole on which the man is sitting is:

- (a) 5 m (b) 7.5 m (c) 10 m (d) 12.5 m

5. In the given figure, $\angle AOB = 90^\circ$ and COD is a straight line. The values of x and y are respectively:



- (a) 25° and 15° (b) 20° and 30°
(c) 15° and 45° (d) 10° and 60°

6. An exterior angle of a triangle is 110° . If one of the interior opposite angles is 30° , then the other two angles of the triangle are:

- (a) $40^\circ, 110^\circ$ (b) $50^\circ, 100^\circ$
(c) $60^\circ, 90^\circ$ (d) $70^\circ, 80^\circ$

7. The measurement of each angle of a polygon is 160° . The number of sides it has is:

- (a) 15 (b) 18 (c) 20 (d) 30

8. The sum of the interior angles of a polygon of n sides is equal to:

- (a) $2n$ right angles
(b) $2n - 2$ right angles
(c) $2(n - 2)$ right angles
(d) $2(n - 4)$ right angles

9. If X is a point on the line AB and Y, Z are points outside such that $\angle AXY = 45^\circ$ and $\angle YXZ = 150^\circ$, then $\angle AXZ$ is equal to:

- (a) 120° (b) 135° (c) 150° (d) 165°

10. Lines PQ and RS intersect at O . If $\angle POS = 2\angle SOQ$, then the four angles at O are:

- (a) 30, 30, 120, 180 (b) 60, 60, 120, 120
(c) 60, 90, 90, 120 (d) 30, 60, 90, 180

11. AB and CD are parallel line segments of lengths 8 cm and 7 cm respectively. If AD and BC intersect at O and $AO = 16$ cm, then OD is equal to:

- (a) 14 cm (b) 15 cm (c) 16 cm (d) 18 cm

12. Consider the following statements relating to 3 lines L_1, L_2 and L_3 in the same plane:

1. If L_2 and L_3 are both parallel to L_1 , then they are parallel to each other.

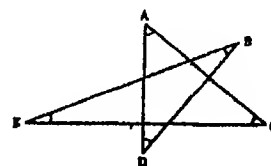
2. If L_2 and L_3 are both perpendicular to L_1 , then they are parallel to each other.

3. If the acute angle between L_1 and L_2 is equal to the acute angle between L_1 and L_3 , then L_2 is parallel to L_3 .

Of these statements:

- (a) 1 and 2 are correct (b) 1 and 3 are correct
(c) 2 and 3 are correct (d) 1, 2 and 3 are correct

13. In the given figure:



$\angle A + \angle B + \angle C + \angle D + \angle E$ is equal to:

- (a) $\pi/2$ (b) π (c) $3\pi/2$ (d) 2π

14. Two beams of length l_1 and l_2 are leaning on opposite sides of a thin vertical wall meeting at the same point on the wall and making angles 30° and 60° with it respectively. Then l_2 is equal to:

- (a) $l_1/2$ (b) $2l_1$ (c) $l_1\sqrt{2}$ (d) $l_1\sqrt{3}$

15. A rectangle $ABCD$ is inscribed in a circle with centre O . If AC is the diagonal and the $\angle BAC = 30^\circ$, then the radius of the circle will be equal to:

- (a) $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} BC$ (b) BC (c) $\sqrt{3} BC$ (d) $2 BC$

16. In a ΔABC , the sides AB , BC and CA are 10 cm, 8 cm and 7 cm respectively. In AB a point P is taken such that $AP = 4$ cm. If PQ is drawn parallel to BC , then its length is equal to:

- (a) 4.0 cm (b) 3.8 cm (c) 3.5 cm (d) 3.2 cm

17. $ABCD$ is a trapezium in which AB is parallel to DC . If the diagonals intersect at O , then which one of the following is correct?

- (a) $\frac{OA}{OC} = \frac{OB}{OD}$ (b) $\frac{AD}{BC} = \frac{AB}{DC}$
(c) $\frac{OB}{OD} = \frac{BC}{CD}$ (d) $\frac{OA}{OC} = \frac{DA}{DC}$

18. In a trapezium $ABCD$, AB is parallel to DC and $AB = 2 DC$. If AC and BD meet at O , then area of ΔAOB is equal to:

- (a) the area of ΔCOD
(b) twice the area of ΔCOD
(c) thrice the area of ΔCOD
(d) four times the area of ΔCOD

19. If AD , BE and CF are the medians of ΔABC , then which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) $(AD + BE + CF) = (AB + BC + CA)$
(b) $(AD + BE + CF) > \frac{3}{4} (AB + BC + CA)$
(c) $(AD + BE + CF) < \frac{3}{4} (AB + BC + CA)$
(d) $(AD + BE + CF) = \frac{1}{2} (AB + BC + CA)$

20. If in triangle XYZ , $XY = XZ$ and M , N are the mid points of XY , YZ , then which one of the following is correct?

- (a) $MN = YZ$ (b) $NY = NZ = MN$
(c) $MX = MY = NY$ (d) $MN = MX = MY$

21. If O , G and H are the circumcentre, the centroid and the orthocentre of a triangle ABC , then:

- (a) O divides GH in the ratio 1 : 2
(b) G divides OH in the ratio 1 : 2
(c) H divides OG in the ratio 1 : 2
(d) O divides GH in the ratio 2 : 1

22. If the sum of the diagonals of a rhombus is 10 cm and its perimeter is $4\sqrt{13}$ cm, then the lengths of its diagonals are:

- (a) 5, 5 (b) 6, 4 (c) 7, 3 (d) 8, 2

23. The sides AB and DC of a cyclic quadrilateral $ABCD$ are produced to meet at P , the sides AD and BC are produced to meet at Q . If the $\angle ADC = 85^\circ$ and $\angle BPC = 40^\circ$, then the $\angle CQD$ equals:

- (a) 30° (b) 45° (c) 60° (d) 75°

24. $ABCD$ is a quadrilateral. If P , Q , R , S are the points of trisection of the sides AB , BC , CD and DA respectively and are adjacent to A and C , then $PQRS$ is a:

- (a) square (b) rectangle
(c) rhombus (d) parallelogram

25. OA , OB are the radii of a circle with O as centre, the angle $AOB = 120^\circ$. Tangents at A and B are drawn to meet in the point C . If OC intersects the circle in the point D , then D divides OC in the ratio:

- (a) 1 : 2 (b) 1 : 3 (c) 1 : 1 (d) 2 : 3

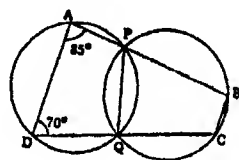
26. If $ABCD$ is a parallelogram whose diagonals intersect at O and ΔBCD is an equilateral triangle having each side of length 6 cm, then the length of diagonal AC is:

- (a) $3\sqrt{3}$ cm (b) $6\sqrt{3}$ cm (c) $3\sqrt{6}$ cm (d) 12 cm

27. The length of a chord of a circle is equal to the radius of the circle. The angle which this chord subtends on the longer segment of the circle is equal to:

- (a) 30° (b) 45° (c) 60° (d) 90°

28. In the figure $\angle B$ is equal to:



- (a) 85° (b) 95° (c) 70° (d) 115°

29. Two concentric circles with centre C have radii r_1 and r_2 such that $(r_2 - r_1) > 0$. CA and CAB are the common lined radii of the circles. If tangent at A is drawn to meet the bigger circle in the point D , then the length BD is given by:

- (a) $\sqrt{2r_1(r_2 - r_1)}$ (b) $\sqrt{2r_2(r_2 - r_1)}$
(c) $\sqrt{2r_1(r_2 + r_1)}$ (d) $\sqrt{2r_2(r_2 + r_1)}$

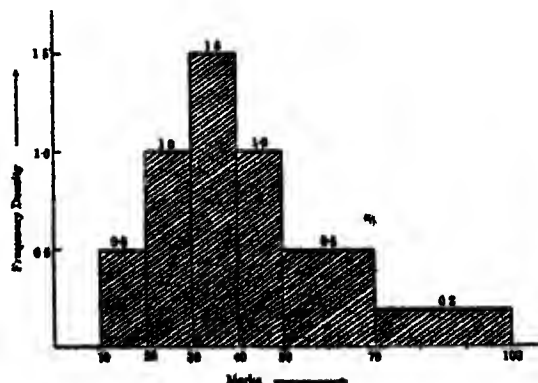
30. The Sturges rule for determining the number of classes (n) in a frequency distribution with total frequency N is:

- (a) $n = 1 + 2.3 \log N$ (b) $N = 1 + 3.3 \log n$
(c) $n = 1 + 3.3 \log N$ (d) $n = 1 - 3.3 \log N$

31. If the class intervals in a frequency distribution are $(72-73.9)$, $(74-75.9)$, $(76-77.9)$, $(78-79.9)$ etc., then the mid-point of the class $(74-75.9)$ is:

- (a) 74.50 (b) 74.90
(c) 74.95 (d) 75.00

32. The given histogram shows a frequency distribution of marks obtained by 56 students in a subject.



Number of students securing marks between 70 and 100

is:

- (a) 2 (b) 4 (c) 6 (d) 8

33 The following data gives the distribution of monthly expenses under different heads

Type of Commodity	Expenditure (in rupees)
Food	300
Rent	200
Clothes	125
Education	110
Miscellaneous	75
Savings	90

If a pie chart is drawn for the above data, the angle subtended at the centre for the item 'rent' will be

- (a) 20° (b) 80° (c) 85° (d) 120°

34 Mean of twenty observations is 15. If two observations 3 and 14 are replaced by 8 and 9 respectively, then the new mean will be

- (a) 14 (b) 15 (c) 16 (d) 17

35

	Factory A	Factory B
No. of wage earners	250	200
Average daily wage	Rs 2.00	Rs 2.50

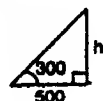
The average of daily wages for the earners of the two factories combined is

- (a) Rs 2.12 (b) Rs 2.06 (c) Rs 2.20 (d) Rs 2.22

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1 (b) $\frac{h}{500} = \tan 30^\circ$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \Rightarrow h = \frac{500}{\sqrt{3}}$$



2 (d) $\frac{h}{b} - \tan 60^\circ = \sqrt{3}$

$$\frac{h}{a} = \tan 30^\circ - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$$

$$\frac{h}{b} \times \frac{h}{a} = \sqrt{3} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \Rightarrow \frac{h^2}{ab} = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow h^2 = ab \Rightarrow h = \sqrt{ab}$$



3 (c) Let $AB = H$, $CE = BD = t$

In rt $\triangle CDB$,

$$\frac{BD}{CD} = \cot y$$

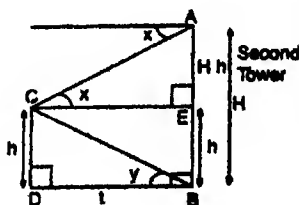
$$\frac{t}{h} = \cot y \Rightarrow t = h \cot y$$

In rt $\triangle AEC$,

$$\frac{H-h}{t} = \tan x$$

$$H-h = t \tan x = h \cot y \tan x$$

$$H = h + h \tan x \cot y = h(1 + \tan x \cot y)$$



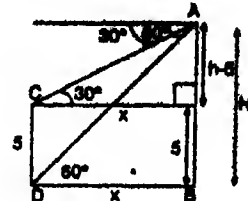
4. (b) Let height of bamboo pole AB be h

$$\frac{x}{h} = \cot 60^\circ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \Rightarrow x = \frac{h}{\sqrt{3}}$$

$$\frac{h-5}{x} = \tan 30^\circ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \Rightarrow h-5$$

$$= \frac{x}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{h}{\sqrt{3} \times \sqrt{3}}$$

$$h-5 = \frac{h}{3} \Rightarrow h = 7.5 \text{ m}$$



5 (b) $4x + 100 = 180^\circ \Rightarrow x = 20$

$$3x + 90 + y = 180^\circ$$

$$\Rightarrow 3 \times 20 + 90 + y = 180^\circ \Rightarrow y = 30^\circ$$

6 (d) $\angle ACD = \angle A + \angle B$

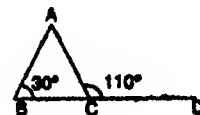
$$110^\circ = \angle A + 30^\circ$$

$$\therefore \angle A = 80^\circ$$

(An ext \angle of a \triangle is equal to the sum of opp int \angle s)

$$\angle ACB = 180^\circ - (30^\circ + 80^\circ) = 70^\circ$$

$$\text{or } \angle ACB = 180 - 110^\circ = 70^\circ$$



7 (b) $\frac{(n-2)180^\circ}{n} = 160^\circ$

$$\Rightarrow n = 18$$

(n is the no. of sides of a regular polygon)

8 (c)

9 (d) $\angle AXZ = 360^\circ - (150^\circ + 45^\circ) = 165^\circ$

10 (b) $x + 2x + x + 2x = 360^\circ$

$$\Rightarrow x = 60^\circ$$

Four angles are $60^\circ, 60^\circ, 120^\circ, 120^\circ$



11 (a) $\angle 1 = \angle 2, \angle 3 = \angle 4$

$$\triangle COD \sim \triangle BOA$$

$$\frac{OD}{OA} = \frac{CD}{AB} \Rightarrow OD = OA \times \frac{CD}{AB}$$

$$= 16 \times \frac{7}{8} = 14 \text{ cm}$$



12 (a)

13 (b) In $\triangle ADH$,

$$\angle 1 + \angle 2 + \angle 3 = 180^\circ \quad (i)$$

In $\triangle BEG$,

$$\angle 4 + \angle 5 + \angle 6 = 180^\circ \quad (ii)$$

In a quad LMFC,

$$\angle 7 + \angle 8 + \angle 9 + \angle 10 = 360^\circ \quad (iii)$$

Adding (i), (ii) and (iii)

$$\angle 1 + \angle 4 + \angle 7 + \angle 2 + \angle 5$$

$$+ (\angle 3 + \angle 6 + \angle 9 + \angle 8 + \angle 10) = 720$$

$$\angle 1 + \angle 4 + \angle 7 + \angle 2 + \angle 5 + 540^\circ = 720^\circ$$

[sum of angles of a pentagon

$$= (5-2) \times 180^\circ = 540^\circ$$

$$A + B + C + D + E = 720 - 540 = 180^\circ = \pi$$

14. (d) $\frac{AC}{AD} = \sin 30^\circ = \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow AC = l_2 \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{l_2}{2}$

$$\frac{AC}{AB} = \sin 60^\circ = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \Rightarrow AC = l_1 \times \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

$$\therefore \frac{l_2}{2} = \frac{\sqrt{3} l_1}{2} \Rightarrow l_2 = \sqrt{3} l_1$$



15. (b) In rt $\triangle ABC$,

$$\angle B = 90^\circ,$$

$$\angle BAC = 30^\circ$$

$$\frac{BC}{AC} = \sin 30^\circ \Rightarrow AC = 2 BC$$

$$\therefore \text{Radius} = OA = \frac{AC}{2} = \frac{2BC}{2} = BC$$

$$(\because \angle B = 90^\circ)$$

\therefore diagonal AC = diameter of a circle)

16. (d) $\therefore AP \parallel BC$

$$\therefore \angle 1 = \angle 2, \angle A = \angle A$$

$$\triangle APQ \sim \triangle ABC$$

$$\therefore \frac{AP}{AB} = \frac{PQ}{BC} \Rightarrow \frac{4}{10} = \frac{PQ}{8} \Rightarrow PQ = 3.2 \text{ cm}$$

17. (a) $\angle 2 = \angle 1$ (alt \angle s)

$$\angle AOB = \angle COD \text{ (v.o.a.)}$$

$$\triangle AOB \sim \triangle COD$$

$$\therefore \frac{AO}{OC} = \frac{OB}{OD}$$

18. (d) $\therefore \triangle AOB \sim \triangle COD$

$$\therefore \frac{\text{ar}(\triangle AOB)}{\text{ar}(\triangle COD)} = \frac{AB^2}{CD^2} = \frac{(2CD)^2}{CD^2} = 4$$

$$\therefore \text{ar}(\triangle AOB) = 4 \cdot \text{ar}(\triangle COD)$$

19. (b) AD, BE, CF meet at G

G divides each median in the ratio $2:1$

$$\therefore BG = \frac{2}{3} BE, CG = \frac{2}{3} CF$$

In $\triangle BGC$, $BG + GC > BC$ [sum of two sides of a \triangle is $>$ than third side]

$$\frac{2}{3} BE + \frac{2}{3} CF > BC$$

$$\text{or } BE + CF > \frac{3}{2} BC \dots (i)$$

$$\text{Sly } BE + AD > \frac{3}{2} AB \dots (ii)$$

$$CF + AD > \frac{3}{2} AC \dots (iii)$$

Adding (i), (ii) and (iii)

$$2(AD + BE + CF) > \frac{3}{2}(AB + BC + AC)$$

$$\text{or } AD + BE + CF > \frac{3}{4}(AB + BC + AC)$$

20. (d) In $\triangle XYZ$, M and N are the mid-pt.s of XY and YZ respectively

$$\therefore MN \parallel XZ \text{ (by mid-pt theorem)}$$

$$\therefore \angle 1 = \angle 2 \text{ corresp } \angle \text{s}$$

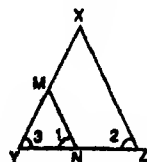
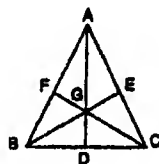
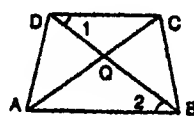
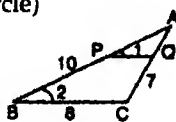
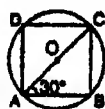
$$\text{Also } \angle 2 = \angle 3 \quad (\because XY = XZ)$$

$$\therefore \angle 1 = \angle 3$$

$$\therefore MY = MN \text{ [sides opp. to equal } \angle \text{s are equal]}$$

$$MX = MY \quad (\because M \text{ is the mid-pt of } XY)$$

$$\therefore MX = MY = MN$$



21. (b) By geometry $\frac{AG}{GD} = \frac{2}{1}$

$$\frac{AH}{OD} = \frac{2}{1}$$

$$\therefore \frac{AG}{GD} = \frac{AH}{OD}$$

$$\angle AGH = \angle OGD \text{ (v.o.a.)}$$

$$\therefore \triangle AGH \sim \triangle DGO$$

$$\therefore \frac{HG}{OG} = \frac{AG}{GD} = \frac{2}{1} \text{ or } \frac{OG}{HG} = \frac{1}{2}$$

or G divides OH in the ratio $1:2$

22. (b) Diagonals of a rhombus are \perp bisectors of each other

$$\text{Let } OB = OD = x$$

$$\therefore AO = OC = \frac{10 - 2x}{2} = 5 - x$$

$$\text{Side of a rhombus} = \frac{4\sqrt{13}}{4} = \sqrt{13} \text{ cm}$$

$$\left(\frac{\text{Perimeter}}{4} \right)$$

$$\therefore \text{By Pythagoras Theorem } x^2 + (5-x)^2 = (\sqrt{13})^2$$

$$x = 2, 3 \therefore \text{Diagonals are } 4, 6$$

23. (a) $\angle 1 + 85^\circ = 180^\circ$ (sum of opp. \angle s of a cyclic quad)

$$\therefore \angle 1 = 180 - 85 = 95$$

$$\text{In } \triangle ADP \angle 3 + 85 + 40$$

$$= 180^\circ \Rightarrow \angle 3 = 55^\circ$$

$$\angle 1 + \angle 2 + \angle 3 = 180^\circ$$

$$\Rightarrow 95 + \angle 2 + 55^\circ = 180^\circ$$

$$\therefore \angle 2 = 30^\circ$$

24. (d) $\frac{DS}{DA} = \frac{DR}{DC} = \frac{2}{3} \therefore SR \parallel AC$

$$\angle D = \angle D \therefore \triangle DSR \sim \triangle DAC$$

$$\therefore \frac{DS}{DA} = \frac{SR}{AC} = \frac{2}{3} \dots (i)$$

$$\text{Sly. } \triangle BPQ \sim \triangle BAC$$

$$\therefore \frac{BP}{BA} = \frac{PQ}{AC} = \frac{2}{3} \dots (ii)$$

$$\therefore PQ \parallel AC$$

From (i) and (ii) $SR = PQ$ and $SR \parallel PQ$

$\therefore PQRS$ is a \parallel gm

25. (c) $\angle OAC = \angle OBC = 90^\circ$ [\therefore radius is \perp tangent

$$\therefore \angle ACB = 60^\circ$$

at the pt. of contact

$$\angle BCO = \frac{1}{2} \times 60 = 30^\circ \text{ [tangents are equally inclined to } OC]$$

$$\therefore \angle BOC = 60^\circ$$

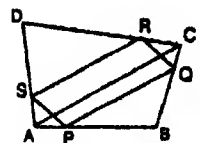
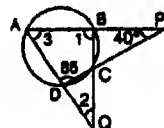
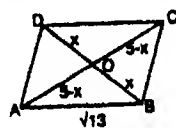
$$\therefore \frac{OC}{OB} = \sec 60^\circ = 2$$

$$\therefore OC = 2OB = 2r$$

$$OD = r$$

$$\therefore OD : CD = 1 : 1$$

$$(\therefore CD = 2r - r = r)$$



26. (b) BCD is an equilateral Δ

Diagonals of a || gm bisect each other

$$\therefore OD = OB$$

$$\therefore OC \perp BD$$

[in an equilateral Δ medians are also \perp bisectors of sides]

$$\therefore OD = \frac{6}{2} = 3$$

$$OC = \sqrt{6^2 - 3^2} = 3\sqrt{3}$$

$$\therefore AO = 2OC = 2 \times 3\sqrt{3} = 6\sqrt{3}$$

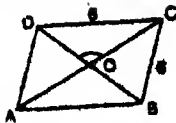
27. (a) OA = OB = AB

$$\therefore \angle AOB = 60^\circ$$

$$\angle AOB = 2 \angle APB$$

$$60^\circ = 2 \angle APB$$

$$\therefore \angle APB = \frac{1}{2} \times 60^\circ = 30^\circ$$



28. (b) $\angle PQC$ is the ext. \angle of a cyclic quad ADQP

$$\therefore \angle PQC = \angle A = 85^\circ$$

$$\angle PQC + \angle B = 180^\circ$$

$$\therefore \angle B = 180 - 85 = 95^\circ$$

\therefore In a cyclic quad PQCB sum of opp \angle s = 180°

29. (b) AB = BC - CA = $r_2 - r_1$

$$\angle BAD = \angle CAD = 90^\circ$$

(radius is \perp to tangent)

$$\therefore \angle BAD = 90^\circ$$

$$AD^2 = CD^2 - CA^2 = r_2^2 - r_1^2$$

$$BD^2 = AB^2 + AD^2 = (r_2 - r_1)^2 + r_2^2 - r_1^2$$

$$= 2r_2^2 - 2r_1 r_2 = 2r_2(r_2 - r_1)$$

$$BD = \sqrt{2r_2(r_2 - r_1)}$$



30. (c)

31. (c) Mid-pt of class 74 - 75.9

$$= \frac{74 + 75.9}{2} = \frac{149.9}{2} = 74.95$$

32. (c) $.5 + 1.0 + 1.5 + 1.0 + .5 + .5 + .2 + .2 + .2 = 5.6$

No. of students securing marks between 70 and 100

$$= \frac{.2 + .2 + .2}{5.6} \times 56 = 6$$

33. (b) Reqd. angle

$$= \frac{200}{300 + 200 + 125 + 110 + 75 + 90} \times 360^\circ = 80^\circ$$

34. (b) New mean

$$= \frac{20 \times 15 + (8 + 9) - (3 + 14)}{20} = 15$$

Or as sum of two observations, in both cases (new and old one) is the same \therefore mean will be same

35. (d) Reqd. average

$$= \frac{250 \times 2.00 + 200 \times 2.50}{250 + 200}$$

$$= \frac{1000}{450} = 2.22$$

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GENERAL AWARENESS

Combined Defence Services Exam, December 1996

Questions 1 to 70 had appeared in November '97 issue. The balance questions along with answers are given below.

- 71 Which one of the following statements regarding the Speaker is correct?
- He must necessarily belong to the largest party in the legislature
 - No one elected to the legislature for the first time can become Speaker
 - He is the *ex officio* chairman of all legislative committees
 - He continues in office even after the dissolution of the legislature
- 72 Buddhist literary works are generally in
- Pali
 - Sanskrit
 - Prakrit
 - Apabhramsa
- 73 In which one of the following atmospheric layers are the radio waves reflected back to the earth?
- Ionosphere
 - Ozonosphere
 - Troposphere
 - Stratosphere
- 74 Which one of the following pairs is *not* correctly matched?
- Pascal Pressure
 - Gauss Light
 - Ampere Current
 - Electric potential Voltage
- 75 Which one of the following is recommended as a source of fat for a heart patient?
- Butter
 - Pure Ghee
 - Hydrogenated fat
 - Sunflower oil
- 76 Which one of the following is *not* a pesticide?
- BHC
 - Malathion
 - Freon
 - DDT
- 77 The Cairo Summit held in March, 1996 was concerned with
- Peace in West Asia
 - Terrorism
 - Economic aid to African countries
 - Oil crisis
- 78 Asokan inscriptions were first deciphered by
- J Prinsep
 - J Fleet
 - A Cunningham
 - V A Smith
- 79 In which one of the following ecosystems is the maximum organic matter produced?
- Temperate grasslands
 - Temperate deciduous forests
 - Tropical deciduous forests
 - Equatorial rain forests
- 80 A sponge retains water in it after it has been dipped once in water because of
- capillary action
 - gravitational forces of attraction between water and sponge molecules
 - molecular forces of attraction between water and sponge molecules
 - upthrust of air
- 81 The microorganism that sometimes makes canned food harmful is
- bacteria causing tetanus
 - bacteria causing typhoid
 - viruses causing hepatitis
 - bacteria causing botulism
- 82 Which one of the following sources of tax revenue yields the maximum revenue to the government of India?
- Corporation tax
 - Personal income tax
 - Customs duties
 - Excise duties
- 83 Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?
- Pimpri Drugs and pharmaceuticals
 - Shahabad Fertilizers
 - Sindri Rubber goods
 - Ballarpur Leather
- 84 The well-known inscription of Samudragupta describing his conquests is found at
- Ujjain
 - Allahabad
 - Mehrauli
 - Eran
- 85 In the given rough outline map of the world, which one of the following shaded portions (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4 in the map) *does not* belong to the natural regions of the other three?



(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4

86 The temperature of 10 grams of ice is raised from -10°C to $+10^{\circ}\text{C}$. Which of the following statements are correct in this context?

- The heat required is 1000 calories
- The heat required for the change of state is 800 calories
- A chemical change takes place at 0°C
- The mass of a given volume of water at 0°C is more than that of the same volume of ice at the same temperature

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

Codes:

- 3 alone
- 1, 2 and 4
- 1, 2 and 3
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

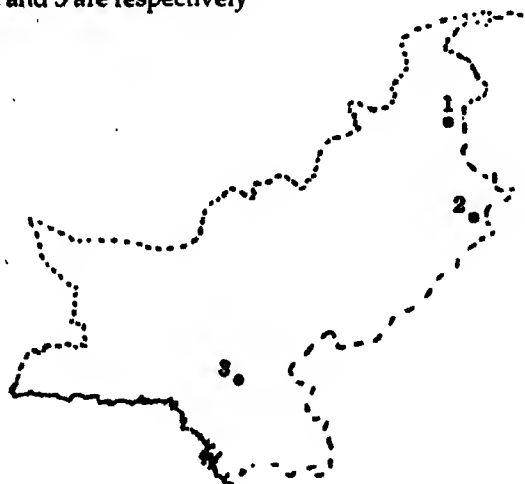
87 Which one of the following is a recent entrant to the list of food preservation technologies?

- Refrigeration
- Use of chemical preservatives
- Canning
- Food irradiation

88. The National Income of India is estimated by the
 (a) Planning Commission
 (b) Finance Commission
 (c) National Sample Survey Organization
 (d) Central Statistical Organization
89. The number of Schedules in the Constitution of India is
 (a) 9 (b) 10 (c) 11 (d) 12
90. The first Indian to suggest that the earth rotates on its own axis was
 (a) Aryabhatta (b) Varahamihira
 (c) Brahmagupta (d) Bhoja
91. The Arabian Sea is connected to the Persian Gulf by the
 (a) Strait of Bab-el Mandeb
 (b) Hormuz Strait
 (c) Strait of Messina
 (d) Bosphorus
92. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer by using the codes given below the lists:
- | List I
(Scientific devices) | List II
(Their utility) |
|--------------------------------|---|
| A Capacitor | 1. Accelerator of charged atomic particles |
| B Counter | 2. Device for detection and measurement of high energy atomic radiation |
| C. Compass | 3. Device for storing electric charge |
| D. Cyclotron | 4. Device for ascertaining direction by seamen |
- Codes:
- | | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| (b) | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| (c) | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| (d) | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
93. The major source through which excess pesticides and fertilizers enter the human body is
 (a) fruits and vegetables
 (b) non-vegetarian food
 (c) ground water
 (d) soil and water
94. In which one of the following countries has the system of electing the Prime Minister directly by the people been introduced recently?
 (a) Bangladesh (b) Turkey
 (c) Sri Lanka (d) Israel
95. Which one of the following pairs of States was the first to implement the Panchayati Raj system?
 (a) Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh
 (b) Karnataka and Kerala
 (c) Uttar Pradesh and Bihar
 (d) Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra
96. Who among the following nationalist leaders was elected to the British Parliament?
 (a) M.G. Ranade (b) Dadabhai Naoroji
 (c) Moti Lal Nehru (d) Tej Bahadur Sapru
97. Which one of the following ocean routes passes through the Panama Canal?
 (a) Los Angeles to Colon
 (b) San Francisco to Balboa
 (c) Shanghai to Honolulu

- (d) Vancouver to Osaka
98. The planet with the shortest day is
 (a) Saturn (b) Venus
 (c) Pluto (d) Mercury
99. Which one of the following is a water-borne disease?
 (a) Small pox (b) Malaria
 (c) Tuberculosis (d) Typhoid
100. The first stage of the theory of demographic transition is characterised by
 (a) high birth rates and high death rates
 (b) low birth rates and low death rates
 (c) high birth rates and low death rates
 (d) low birth rates and high death rates
101. As on date how many SAARC countries have women Prime Ministers?
 (a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) None
102. The earlier of the Ajanta caves were made under the reign of the
 (a) Chalukyas (b) Western Kshatrapas
 (c) Vakatakas (d) Cheras
103. Match List I (countries) with List II (leading items of export) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:
- | List I | List II |
|--------------|---------|
| A. Australia | 1. Fish |
| B. Canada | 2. Rice |
| C. USA | 3. Tea |
| D. Sri Lanka | 4. Wool |
- Codes:
- | | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| (b) | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| (c) | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| (d) | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
104. INSAT-2C which was launched in December '95 will revolutionise
 (a) telecommunications
 (b) oil and natural gas exploration
 (c) geographical survey
 (d) weather forecasting
105. All of the following are viral diseases *except*
 (a) AIDS (b) Chicken pox
 (c) Cholera (d) Rabies
106. Net Domestic Product means
 (a) Gross Domestic Product minus depreciation of assets
 (b) products consumed by the entrepreneurs
 (c) Gross Domestic Product minus exported products
 (d) Gross Domestic Product minus the wage bill
107. Match List I (year) with List II (event) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists.
- | List I | List II |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| A. 1919 | 1. Non-Cooperation Movement |
| B. 1920 | 2. Jallianwala Bagh tragedy |
| C. 1930 | 3. Quit India Movement |
| D. 1942 | 4. Civil Disobedience Movement |
- Codes:
- | | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| (b) | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| (c) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| (d) | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
108. In the given rough outline map, the places marked

1, 2 and 3 are respectively



- (a) Islamabad, Lahore and Hyderabad
 (b) Islamabad, Hyderabad and Lahore
 (c) Hyderabad, Islamabad and Lahore
 (d) Hyderabad, Lahore and Islamabad

109. Which one of the following is present in the common toothpastes as an abrasive?

- (a) Calcium oxide (b) Calcium carbonate
 (c) Calcium fluoride (d) Calcium chloride

110. During the last five years, maximum setback to poultry industry has been due to

- (a) Ranikhet disease (b) Marek's disease
 (c) Parasitic disease (d) Infectious Bursal disease

111. Bana composed

- (a) Kadambari and Harsha-charita
 (b) Harsha-charita and Rajatarangini
 (c) Kadambari and Meghaduta
 (d) Rajatarangini and Panchatantra

112. Which one of the following has been identified as the main source of environmental pollution of the city of Delhi?

- (a) Automobiles (b) Civic wastes
 (c) Sewage water (d) Thermal power plants

113. Which one of the following reasons is mainly responsible for the location of most of the oil refineries of India in the coastal areas of the country?

- (a) Easy export of petroleum products
 (b) Easy import of crude petroleum
 (c) Greater consumption of petroleum products in the coastal regions
 (d) Ready availability of sea water for use in the refineries

114. Which one of the following chemicals is a food preservative?

- (a) Sodium carbonate
 (b) Sodium bicarbonate
 (c) Sodium benzoate
 (d) Sodium thiosulphate

115. The organisms that derive their nutrition from dead plants and animals are called

- (a) parasites
 (b) saprophytes
 (c) epiphytes
 (d) symbiotics

116. Which one of the following is *not* a direct tax?

- (a) Estate duty (b) Agricultural income tax
 (c) State excise (d) Corporation tax

117. The first important exponent of the Nyaya system of philosophy was

- (a) Gautama (b) Kanada
 (c) Kapila (d) Jaimini

118. Match List I (minerals) with List II (areas of production) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:

List I

- A. Copper
 B. Iron ore
 C. Uranium
 D. Coal

List II

1. Khetri
 2. Badan Pahar
 3. Jaduguda
 4. Umaria

Codes:

- | | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| (b) | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| (c) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| (d) | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 |

119. Match List I (elements) with List II (minerals/ores) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:

List I

- A. Magnesium
 B. Calcium
 C. Aluminium
 D. Uranium

List II

1. Dolomite
 2. Bauxite
 3. Limestone
 4. Pitch blende

Codes:

- | | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| (b) | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| (c) | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| (d) | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 |

120. Which of the following statements is/are true of village administration under the Cholas?

1. Villages enjoyed self-government
 2. Villages were administered by royal officers.
 3. Villages were grouped into bigger administrative units.
 4. Villages were denied autonomy.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

Codes:

- (a) 1 alone (b) 4 alone
 (c) 1 and 3 (d) 2, 3 and 4

121. Konkan Railway does *not* pass through

- (a) Karnataka (b) Maharashtra
 (c) Goa (d) Andhra Pradesh

122. A 500 paise stamp was released by the Government of India in September, 1995 to commemorate the hundredth death anniversary of:

- (a) Louis Pasteur (b) Niels Bohr
 (c) John Dalton (d) Albert Einstein

123. Which one of the following games played in Olympics is described as 'water polo without water' and 'basketball without basket'?

- (a) Baseball (b) Team Handball
 (c) Equestrian (d) Volleyball

124. "The Great Indian Bustard" is

- (a) a rare snake of the Himalayan region
 (b) an extinct bird of Assam
 (c) a rare Indian bird on way to extinction
 (d) a book on Indian birds written by Dr Salim Ali

125. If a magnetic needle is freely suspended at the geographic north pole:

- (a) the needle will remain vertical with its N-pole downward
- (b) the needle will remain almost vertical with its N-pole downward
- (c) the needle will remain vertical with its S-pole downward
- (d) the needle will remain almost vertical with its S-pole downward

126. Which one of the following units represents the largest amount of energy?

- (a) Calorie
- (b) Joule
- (c) Erg
- (d) Electron volt

127. Which one of the following scientists started the modern system of using symbols for the elements?

- (a) Jons Jacob Berzelius
- (b) Joseph Priestley
- (c) Ernest Rutherford
- (d) John Dalton

128. Recently the President of India has constituted a Committee of State Governors

- (a) to review the role of Governors as Chancellors of State universities
- (b) to review the welfare activities for backward classes
- (c) to ensure better Centre-State relations
- (d) to maintain communal harmony

129. The humus is a

- (a) compost from farm wastes
- (b) green manure for flowering plants
- (c) substance obtained by decomposition of organic material of plant and animal origin
- (d) compost of night-soil mixed with farm wastes

130. Which one of the following indicates the correct chronological order of the various phases through which Indian freedom movement passed?

- (a) Swadeshi Movement, Home Rule Movement, Quit India Movement, Non-Cooperation Movement
- (b) Swadeshi Movement, Non-Cooperation Movement, Home Rule Movement, Quit India Movement
- (c) Swadeshi Movement, Home Rule Movement, Non-Cooperation Movement, Quit India Movement
- (d) Home Rule Movement, Non-Cooperation Movement, Quit India Movement, Swadeshi Movement

131. The biggest item of export from India is

- (a) Handicrafts
- (b) Iron ore
- (c) Jute
- (d) Tea

132. The year 1995 marked the hundredth year of the discovery of

- (a) Hydrogen
- (b) Helium
- (c) Oxygen
- (d) Chlorine

133. 'Taliban' is a rebel group in

- (a) Afghanistan
- (b) Egypt
- (c) Iraq
- (d) Turkey

134. The concept of tissue culture implies

- (a) the growing of genetically engineered plants in the absence of oxygen
- (b) the creation of genetically engineered plants with desirable characteristics
- (c) the grafting of segments of different plants to produce a hybrid plant
- (d) the growing of plants in an atmosphere of carbon dioxide

135. Who among the following is referred to as the 'Father of Local Self Government' in India?

- (a) Lord Curzon
- (b) Lord Ripon
- (c) Lord Hardinge
- (d) Lord Dalhousie

136. Which one of the following countries is the principal Importer of tea from India?

- (a) Canada
- (b) U.S.A.
- (c) U.K.
- (d) Australia

137. The source of penicillin is

- (a) mushroom
- (b) algae
- (c) yeast
- (d) mould

138. The Eighth Five Year Plan has been formulated under the system of

- (a) Indicative Planning
- (b) Centralised Planning
- (c) Directional Planning
- (d) Regional Planning

139. Which one of the following statements is incorrect?

- (a) Evaporation takes place at all temperatures
- (b) Rate of evaporation increases with pressure
- (c) Evaporation takes place from the free surface of the liquid
- (d) Evaporation precedes cooling

140. Mahatma Gandhi's entry into national politics started with the

- (a) Champa'an Movement
- (b) Non-Cooperation Movement
- (c) Rowlatt Satyagraha
- (d) Dandi March

ANSWERS

- | | | | |
|--|----------|-----------------|----------|
| 71. (b) | 72. (a) | 73. (a) | 74. (b) |
| 75. (c) | 76. (c) | 77. (a) and (b) | |
| 78. (a) | 79. (b) | 80. (a) | 81. (d) |
| 82. (d) | 83. (a) | 84. (b) | 85. (c) |
| 86. (a) | 87. (d) | 88. (d) | 89. (d) |
| 90. (a) | 91. (b) | 92. (c) | 93. (a) |
| 94. (d) | 95. (a) | 96. (b) | 97. (a) |
| 98. (d) | 99. (d) | 100. (a) | 101. (b) |
| 102. (c) | 103. (c) | 104. (a) | 105. (a) |
| 106. (a) | 107. (a) | 108. (a) | 109. (c) |
| 110. (a) | 111. (a) | 112. (a) | 113. (b) |
| 114. (c) | 115. (b) | 116. (b) | 117. (a) |
| 118. (c) | 119. (b) | 120. (c) | 121. (d) |
| 122. (a) | 123. (b) | 124. (c) | 125. (b) |
| 126. (b) | 127. (a) | 128. (a) | 129. (c) |
| 130. (c) Swadeshi Movement (1905); Home Rule Movement (1916); Non-cooperation (1920); Quit India (1942). | | | |
| 131. (a) | 132. (b) | 133. (a) | 134. (c) |
| 135. (b) | 136. (c) | 137. (a) | 138. (a) |
| 139. (b) | 140. (a) | | |

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Combined Defence Services Exam, December 1996

Questions 1-40 had appeared in November '97 issue. The balance questions along with answers are given below.

Antonyms (Items 41 to 50)

Directions:

In this Section each item consists of a word or a phrase which is underlined in the sentence given. It is followed by four words or phrases. Select the word or phrase which is closest to the opposite in meaning of the underlined word or phrase.

Example 'F' has been solved for you.

F. Lucy is a smart girl.

- (a) lazy (b) active
(c) indecent (d) casual

Explanation: The word which is nearest opposite in meaning to the underlined word "smart" is "lazy". So 'a' is the correct answer.

Now attempt items 41 to 50.

41. The proposal got the concurrence of all the officials.

- (a) denunciation
(b) opposition
(c) dissent (d) disapproval

42. They have made tentative plans for their marriage but have not told us anything.

- (a) definite (b) foolproof
(c) obvious (d) distinct

43. The essay will read better if you condense it a little

- (a) elaborate (b) increase
(c) modify (d) improve

44. This glass is transparent.

- (a) opaque (b) dark
(c) shaded (d) murky

45. He is very optimistic about his examination result.

- (a) desolate (b) gloomy
(c) pessimistic (d) sombre

46. There is abundance of wheat in the market.

- (a) rarity (b) scarcity
(c) non-availability
(d) lack

47. The proctor is a very strict person.

- (a) lenient (b) generous
(c) kind (d) noble

48. He appears to be very sagacious.

- (a) sage-like (b) foolish
(c) flippant (d) disrespectful

49. He is very frugal by nature.

- (a) careless (b) generous
(c) extravagant (d) liberal

50. He showed his cowardliness while confronting the rogues.

- (a) aggressiveness
(b) bravery
(c) gallantry (d) guts

SELECTING WORDS

Simple Sentences (Items 51 to 60)

Directions:

Each of the following sentences (Items 51 to 60) has a blank space and four words given after the sentence. Select whichever word you consider most appropriate for the blank space and indicate your choice on the Answer Sheet

Now attempt items 51 to 60

51. "Listen to others patiently, even if you do not agree with them". That is a _____ piece of advice.

- (a) sensible (b) sensitive
(c) sensual (d) sensuous

52. It has always been the _____ of the Company to promote existing staff to senior positions.

- (a) decision (b) policy
(c) procedure (d) prerogative

53. When Mahatma Gandhi visited the Buckingham Palace dressed in his loin-cloth, there were people who considered him _____.

- (a) atrocious (b) auspicious
(c) suspicious (d) audacious

54. All progress in technology depends on a scientific _____ of the way in which nature works, in order that we may make her work for our ends.

- (a) understanding
(b) awareness
(c) consciousness
(d) education

55. Having _____ his prayers the old man slowly lay down on his bed to sleep.

- (a) told (b) sung
(c) said (d) done

56. Lots of people had come to attend his lecture because he is a very _____ scholar.

- (a) eminent (b) popular
(c) engaging (d) imminent

57. The single largest party decided to _____ its claim to form

the government.

- (a) stake (b) propose
(c) risk (d) advance

58. She is _____ to be a dancer.

- (a) made out (b) set out
(c) carved out (d) cut out

59. After hearing the _____ news I was stunned and terror-stricken.

- (a) surprising (b) tragic
(c) alarming (d) unpleasant

60. Sheila has a taste _____ poetry.

- (a) about (b) on
(c) in (d) for

COMPREHENSION

(Items 61 to 90)

Directions:

In this Section you have six short passages. After each passage you will find five questions based on the passage. First, read Passage I and answer the questions based on it. Then go on to the next passage. Examples 'I' and 'J' are solved for you.

Passage

In our approach to life, be it pragmatic or otherwise, a basic fact that confronts us squarely and unmistakably is the desire for peace, security and happiness. Different forms of life at different levels of existence make up the teeming denizens of this earth of ours. And, no matter whether they belong to the higher groups such as human beings or to the lower groups such as animals, all beings primarily seek peace, comfort and security. Life is as dear to a mute creature as it is to a man. Even the lowliest insect strives for protection against dangers that threaten its life. Just as each one of us wants to live and not to die, so do all other creatures.

I. The author's main point is that

- (a) different forms of life are found on earth
(b) different levels of existence are possible in nature
(c) peace and security are the chief goals of all living beings
(d) even the weakest creature struggles to preserve its life

J. Which one of the following assumptions or steps is essential in developing the author's position?

- (a) All forms of life have a single over-riding goal.
- (b) The will to survive of a creature is identified with a desire for peace.
- (c) All beings are divided into higher and lower groups.
- (d) A parallel is drawn between happiness and life, and pain and death.

Explanation:

I. The idea which represents the author's main point is 'peace and security are the chief goals of all living beings', which is response (c). So 'c' is the correct answer.

J. The best assumption underlying the passage is 'The will to survive of a creature is identified with a desire for peace', which is response (b). So 'b' is the correct answer.

Now attempt items 61 to 90.

Passage I

The question I had to decide was, whether or not I should try to call her up. If I called and she heard me, and came while it was still daylight and gave me a chance to shoot her, all would be well; on the other hand, if she came and did not give me a shot, some of us would not reach the camp, for we had nearly two miles to go and the path the whole way ran through heavy jungle, and was bordered in some places by big rocks, and in others by dense bushes. It was useless to consult the men, for none of them had ever been in a jungle before coming on this trip, so the decision would have to be mine.

61. The pronoun 'she' in the passage refers to

- (a) a criminal in hiding
- (b) a wild animal
- (c) the leader of a robber-gang
- (d) an ogress

62. The time of the day mentioned in the passage is:

- (a) morning (b) noon
- (c) evening (d) night

63. The statement that "some of us would not reach camp" means that they would

- (a) lose their way
- (b) be caught (c) be injured
- (d) not be alive to reach camp

64. The last sentence shows that the author

- (a) had been in a jungle before
- (b) had never been in a jungle
- (c) was born in a jungle
- (d) lives in a jungle

65. The tone of the passage reflects

- (a) irony (b) uncertainty
- (c) despondency

(d) authoritarianism

Passage II

Everybody these days appears to be asking for more, even, as it turns out, elephants. Well, one elephant, at least. This 'gentleman' and his mahout were sauntering along the highway out of Nagpur one balmy night when they saw a truck coming their way. The breeze also brought to them the appetising fragrance of fresh fruit. So they calmly parked themselves in the middle of the road and eventually a screech of brakes and a few choice swear words from inside the truck's cabin clarified that the driver had got the message. To get rid of the duo, he proffered a 10-rupee note which was contemptuously spurned. Angered by the meagre donation the elephant, instantly went into action, which consisted in trying to haul the driver out of the cabin by lovingly curling his muscular trunk round his neck and tugging. The victim was on the verge of decapitation when a sharp blow on the trunk freed him. In a couple of seconds he had let in the clutch and was racing off into the night.

66. The elephant and his mahout were

- (a) going round the city collecting donations
- (b) coming out of the jungle
- (c) walking leisurely on the highway
- (d) trying to rob passengers

67. The elephant sat in the middle of the road

- (a) to relax for a while
- (b) as he had smelt some fresh fruit
- (c) to block the traffic
- (d) as he had heard the sound of a vehicle on the highway

68. When the truck came to a halt, the elephant

- (a) lifted the truck off its front wheels
- (b) looked around for fruit in the wagon
- (c) nuzzled its mahout to talk to the driver
- (d) refused to get up till a donation had been offered by the driver

69. The elephant expressed its anger by

- (a) refusing the ten-rupee note
- (b) shattering the windscreen of the truck
- (c) trying to pull the driver from his cabin
- (d) dismounting its mahout

70. The driver raced off with his truck for

- (a) he had just been through a terrifying experience
- (b) he wanted to have a quiet laugh over the whole incident
- (c) the elephant had done enough to damage his neck
- (d) his vehicle needed immediate repairs

Passage III

The house, for the first year or so, was on the top of a cliff, so that in stormy weather the spray would soak my bed at night, for I had taken the glass out of the window, sash and all. A literary passion for the open air was to last me for a few years. Then for another year or two, we had a house overlooking the harbour where the one great sight was the going and coming of the fishing fleet. We had one regular servant, a fisherman's wife, and the occasional help of big, red-faced girl who ate a whole pot of jam while my mother was at church and accused me of it.

71. The first house mentioned was

- (a) above a steep rock-face
- (b) on a high plateau
- (c) near a swamp
- (d) on a mountain slope

72. From the second house the author saw mainly

- (a) warships
- (b) a few fishermen
- (c) a beautiful beach
- (d) a group of fishing boats

73. Moisture in the author's room was due to

- (a) a leak in the roof
- (b) stormy weather and missing window panes
- (c) windows blown open by the wind
- (d) incessant rain

74. The author

- (a) loved indoor life
- (b) was always a fanatic for physical fitness
- (c) felt a short-lived aesthetic attraction for outdoor life
- (d) usually lived in a tent

75. Of the servants

- (a) both were honest
- (b) one was always absent
- (c) each served part-time
- (d) one was a glutton and liar

Passage IV

Acquisitive nature has become the hallmark of people in modern times. If a neighbour possesses a kitchen gadget like a mixie or a grinder, we too have the desire to own the same. All efforts are geared to make this purchase, whether the item is essential or not.

Shop-keepers vie with each other to sell these things. It is as if the whole world has conspired to sell the mixie or grinder to me whether I want it or not. Of course, my wife wants it.

76. In this passage acquisition means

- (a) giving away things
- (b) working regularly
- (c) being lazy
- (d) gaining things

77. Possessing new things sets up a kind of

- (a) competition among neighbours
- (b) hatred among neighbours
- (c) indifference among neighbours
- (d) love among neighbours

78. According to the passage, the purchase is made

- (a) because the article is essential
- (b) whether the article is needed or not
- (c) only when the article is in demand
- (d) when the article is useful

79. From the passage it is clear that the writer

- (a) wants to buy a mixie
- (b) is indifferent to buying a mixie
- (c) does not want to buy a mixie
- (d) is keen on buying a mixie

80. The writer considers acquisitive nature to be

- (a) a good quality in people
- (b) a bad quality in people
- (c) an encouraging quality in people
- (d) a depressing quality in people

Passage V

My first vivid impressions of Akkayya go back to my childhood. I must have been about four years of age; and having just lost my mother, I was left under her care, till my father married again and started his new family. I used to be very devoted to Akkayya, and had a strange, instinctive pity for her. She must have been over sixty, and I always saw her with the same childlike smile, with eyes that moved like the marbles I played with, and her face all wrinkled like a dry mango, more wrinkled than ever when she smiled.

81. The author says, "I used to be very devoted to Akkayya". The most likely reason for this is that

- (a) he was just a child of four
- (b) he had a step-mother
- (c) Akkayya was an old woman
- (d) he was motherless and Akkayya took care of him

82. Which one of the following phrases best brings out the meaning of "a strange, instinctive pity for her"?

- (a) Great affection and kindness
- (b) An immediate, natural sense of compassion
- (c) Regard for her childlike qualities
- (d) Natural attraction for her

83. The statement that her face was "all wrinkled like a dry mango" means that

- (a) Akkayya was full of worries
- (b) she was ugly
- (c) her face showed all the signs of old age
- (d) her face had a mango-like oval shape

84. "Vivid impressions" in the first line of the passage means

- (a) clear effect produced on the mind
- (b) unpleasant impressions on the mind
- (c) affectionate feelings for Akkayya
- (d) happy encounter

85. What the passage mainly describes is the author's

- (a) past life
- (b) childhood memories of Akkayya
- (c) understanding of Akkayya's old age problems
- (d) pity for Akkayya

Passage VI

August 6, the day Hiroshima was atom-bombed in 1945, symbolises at once man's nightmare and his greatest dream; the nightmare of a nuclear war, and the dream of genuine and lasting peace. Beginning with the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the awareness of the danger and sentiment for disarmament and peace has become universal, transcending national and ideological barriers. And yet more and more deadly nuclear weapons are being piled on top of the heap, that is enough to wipe out all traces of life from this planet. Forty years after Hiroshima, there is no light at the end of the tunnel—only occasional flickers. The arms limitation talks between the superpowers, who hold the key to disarmament and peace, have yielded nothing so far.

The main responsibility for suppressing the nuclear threat is that of the superpowers. However, other powers also have nuclear weapons and they must share the responsibility. And not only they, but those nations which have or are developing nuclear capability,

must see the issues in a longer term and, larger perspective.

Nuclear war like peace is not divisible. Agreement on disarmament at the superpower level is essential. But it must be followed by similar agreements on the bilateral and regional level, for all of us are in a sense the citizens of Hiroshima.

86. August 6, 1945 is a significant date in history because it was on this day that

- (a) the Second World War came to an end
- (b) a nuclear weapon was used for the first time
- (c) a peace treaty was signed
- (d) Japan surrendered to the Allies

87. The atom bomb has produced a nightmarish effect on nations because of

- (a) their awareness of man's defencelessness against such weapons
- (b) the possibility of destruction of a whole civilization
- (c) its potential for unabashed arms race
- (d) the threat to peace from the powers that could produce such weapons

88. The superpowers are trying to counter the dangers of a nuclear war by:

- (a) trying to stop making nuclear weapons
- (b) holding talks on peace and disarmament
- (c) discontinuing nuclear tests
- (d) withholding financial aid to nations trying to go nuclear

89. The author thinks that negotiations for the control of nuclear arms have made

- (a) tremendous progress
- (b) little progress
- (c) constructive suggestions
- (d) contingency plans to stop the disasters

90. According to the author

- (a) superpowers alone should shoulder the responsibility of controlling nuclear arms
- (b) other powers that have nuclear capability should join hands with superpowers to restrain potential nuclear powers
- (c) developing nations should hold talks for disarmament
- (d) a nuclear disarmament agreement at the superpower level should be followed by similar agreements at bilateral and regional levels

ORDERING OF WORDS IN A SENTENCE

(Items 91 to 100)

Directions:

In each of the items 91 to 100, there is a sentence of which some parts have been jumbled up. You are required to re-arrange these parts which are labelled P, Q, R and S to produce the correct sentence. Choose the proper sequence and mark in your Answer Sheet accordingly.

Example: Z. It is well-known that

- (P) the effect
- (Q) is very bad
- (R) on children
- (S) of cinema.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P S R Q (b) S P Q R
- (c) S R P Q (d) Q S R P

Explanation: The proper way of writing the sentence is 'It is well-known that the effect of cinema on children is very bad.' This is indicated by the sequence P S R Q and so 'a' is the correct answer.

Now attempt items 91 to 100

91. The Gezira scheme has been developed

- (P) an ad hoc board of management
- (Q) by an admirably managed
- (R) and the cultivators themselves
- (S) threefold partnership of government.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P Q R S (b) P R Q S
- (c) Q P S R (d) Q S P R

92. Although

- (P) he worked
- (Q) he was never given
- (R) for the company for over ten years
- (S) an increase in salary.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P R Q S (b) P Q S R
- (c) S P Q R (d) S Q P R

93. There is nothing

- (P) but his greed and sloth:
- (Q) in man's industrial machinery
- (R) in his weapons
- (S) his heart is.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P S R Q (b) Q R P S
- (c) Q P S R (d) P Q S R

94. When

- (P) the native boys
- (Q) that bounced easily
- (R) Columbus landed in America, he saw
- (S) playing with a ball.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) R P S Q (b) R P Q S
- (c) P Q S R (d) P S R Q

95. She hasn't done

- (P) she has little chance
- (Q) of passing the examinations
- (R) since she has come to the college and therefore
- (S) any work.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) R S P Q (b) S R P Q
- (c) R P Q S (d) S P R Q

96. A child

- (P) who learns
- (Q) in a money-box
- (R) becomes a miser in later life
- (S) to save money.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P Q R S (b) P S Q R
- (c) R Q S P (d) S R P Q

97. Although he had reached the place

- (P) his mind was not at rest
- (Q) that his enemies were close upon his heels
- (R) because he knew
- (S) where he wanted to go.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) S P R Q (b) S R Q P
- (c) R Q P S (d) R P Q S

98. The teacher became angry

- (P) and inquired of him
- (Q) in attending classes
- (R) why he had been irregular
- (S) with the student

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P R S Q (b) P R Q S
- (c) S P R Q (d) S R P Q

99. On reaching the top floor

- (P) that she had left
- (Q) she remembered
- (R) with the watchman
- (S) the main key.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P S R Q (b) Q S P R
- (c) Q P S R (d) P S Q R

100. When I visited him

- (P) he thanked me
- (Q) and asked me
- (R) for going to see him
- (S) when I was returning to my native place.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P R Q S (b) P S Q R
- (c) R P Q S (d) P Q S R

ORDERING OF SENTENCES

(Items 101 to 105)

Directions:

In items 101 to 105 each passage consists of six sentences. The first and

the sixth sentences are given in the beginning. The middle four sentences in each have been removed and jumbled up. These are labelled P, Q, R and S. You are required to find out the proper order for the four sentences and mark accordingly on the Answer Sheet.

Example:

S₁: There was a boy named Jack.

S₆: At last she turned him out of the house.

P: So the mother asked him to find work.

Q: They were very poor.

R: He lived with his mother.

S: But Jack refused to work.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) R Q P S (b) P Q R S
- (c) Q P R S (d) R P S Q

Explanation: The proper sequence in this Example is: R Q P S which is marked (a). Therefore 'a' is the correct answer

Now attempt items 101 to 105

101. S₁: My grandmother always went to school with me because the school was attached to the temple

S₆: They followed us to our home growling and fighting with each other for the chappatties we threw to them.

P: The priest taught us the alphabet and the morning prayer.

Q: While the children sat in rows on either side of the verandah singing the alphabet or the prayer in a chorus, my grandmother sat inside reading the scriptures.

R: This time the village dogs would meet us at the temple door.

S: When we had both finished we would walk back together.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P Q S R (b) P S Q R
- (c) S R Q P (d) S R P Q

102. S₁: The way the Masais make a hut is interesting to watch.

S₆: An opening is left for the door, but there are no windows.

P: The space between the poles is filled with leaves, small branches of trees and mud.

Q: Now the framework of the hut is ready.

R: They take a number of long, thin wooden poles and plant them in the ground in a circle.

S: Each pole is bent into the shape of a 'u', and its other end is also planted in the earth.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) P Q R S (b) R S Q P
- (c) R P S Q (d) P Q S R

103. S₁: You know of course that our earth is very very old—millions and millions of years old.

S₆: And if we read their books and study the rocks and fossils we can see ourselves that this must have been so.

P: It is difficult to imagine this world of ours, which is so full today of all kinds of animals and men, to be without them.

Q: And for a long, long time there were no men or women living on it.

R: But scientists and those who have studied and thought a great deal about these matters tell us that the earth was too hot for any living being to live on it.

S: Before men came, there were only animals; and before them there was a time when no kind of life existed on earth.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) QSPR (b) PRSQ
(c) QPSR (d) SQRP

104. S₁: There is a danger in wholeheartedly accepting the general outcry against materialistic values.

S₆: Wealth, after all, is no problem at all

P: But this is a monstrous distortion.

Q: It is poverty that is evil, not prosperity

R: It can create the impression, especially among the young and idealistic, that prosperity itself is wrong.

S: Hence, our business should be to find a solution to poverty.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) SQPR (b) RPQS
(c) PSQR (d) RQPS

105. S₁: I am one of those who love the desert.

S₆: Thus strengthened in spirit, with rested nerves and a peaceful mind, I can return from the desert to the battle for existence in the town.

P: In the green countryside, I can see flowers and trees, birds and beetles continuing the restless struggle for existence.

Q: It brings peace to my mind after the daily battle for my bread.

R: It presents no sign of effort or passion to disturb me.

S: In the desert I can see nothing around me but the sunbaked desert.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) RQSP (b) QRSP
(c) RSQP (d) QPSR

SELECTING WORDS

(Items 106 to 120)

Directions:

In the following passage at certain

points you are given a choice of three words marked (a), (b), (c). Choose the most appropriate word from these three and indicate your choice in the relevant place on your Answer Sheet. Examples Z₁ and Z₂ have been solved for you.

Z₁. The

- (a) boy
(b) horse
(c) dog

was in the school in Shimla.

Z₂.

- (a) She
(b) It
(c) He

was homesick

Explanation: Out of the list of three words given in item Z₁, only 'boy' is the most appropriate word in the given context. So, 'a' is the correct answer. For item Z₂, 'c' is the correct answer because that is the pronoun which refers back to the noun 'boy'

Now attempt items 106 to 120

It was with pleasant surprise that Swaminathan stumbled into his own set, which he had thought was not at school. Except Rajam and Mani all were there. Under the huge tamarind tree they were playing some game. Swaminathan joined them with a low, ecstatic cry.

The

106. (a) reply
(b) answer
(c) response

disappointed him. They turned their

107. (a) profiles
(b) faces
(c) heads

to him with a faint

108. (a) smile
(b) assessment
(c) expression

and returned to their game. What

109. (a) astonished
(b) bewildered
(c) surprised

Swaminathan most was that even the

110. (a) genial
(b) hearty
(c) sympathetic

Somu was grim. Something seemed to be

111. (a) unreasonable
(b) wrong
(c) improper

somewhere Swaminathan assumed an easy

112. (a) tone
(b) modulation
(c) accent

and shouted; "Boys, what about

113. (a) some
(b) a small
(c) a little

place for me in the

114. (a) sport
(b) game
(c) match

?" Nobody answered this. Swaminathan paused and

115. (a) proclaimed
(b) reported
(c) announced

that he was waiting for a

116. (a) place
(b) position
(c) situation

in the game. "It is a

117. (a) pity
(b) disaster
(c) fellow-feeling

we can't take more", Sankar said

118. (a) briefly
(b) curtly
(c) suddenly

"There are people who can be very

119. (a) skilful
(b) capable
(c) efficient

as tails", said Samuel. The

120. (a) rest
(b) remainder
(c) balance

laughed at this "You said tail, didn't you?" asked Sankar.

ANSWERS

- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 41. (d) | 42. (a) | 43. (a) |
| 44. (a) | 45. (c) | 46. (b) |
| 47. (a) | 48. (b) | 49. (c) |
| 50. (b) | 51. (a) | 52. (b) |
| 53. (a) | 54. (a) | 55. (c) |
| 56. (a) | 57. (a) | 58. (d) |
| 59. (b) | 60. (d) | 61. (b) |
| 62. (c) | 63. (a) | 64. (a) |
| 65. (b) | 66. (c) | 67. (d) |
| 68. (d) | 69. (c) | 70. (a) |
| 71. (a) | 72. (d) | 73. (b) |
| 74. (c) | 75. (d) | 76. (d) |
| 77. (a) | 78. (b) | 79. (b) |
| 80. (b) | 81. (d) | 82. (b) |
| 83. (c) | 84. (a) | 85. (b) |
| 86. (b) | 87. (b) | 88. (b) |
| 89. (b) | 90. (d) | 91. (c) |
| 92. (a) | 93. (c) | 94. (a) |
| 95. (b) | 96. (b) | 97. (a) |
| 98. (c) | 99. (c) | 100. (a) |
| 101. (a) | 102. (b) | 103. (a) |
| 104. (b) | 105. (c) | 106. (c) |
| 107. (c) | 108. (a) | 109. (c) |
| 110. (a) | 111. (b) | 112. (a) |
| 113. (c) | 114. (b) | 115. (a) |
| 116. (a) | 117. (a) | 118. (b) |
| 119. (a) | 120. (a) | |

Improve Your Word Power

1. **apogee:** (a) discovery (b) depth (c) ceremony (d) climax.
2. **besmirch:** (a) dishonour (b) decorate (c) bury (d) suffocate.
3. **cognoscenti:** (a) follower (b) critic (c) devotee (d) donor.
4. **dénouement:** (a) beginning (b) outcome (c) downfall (d) refusal.
5. **euphoria:** (a) depression (b) concession (c) elation (d) recession.
6. **fuehrer:** (a) lawyer (renowned) (b) judge (learned) (c) manager (efficient) (d) leader (tyrannical).
7. **grill:** (a) question (b) sweep (c) wash (d) burn.
8. **hub-bub:** (a) solitude (b) audience (c) disturbance (d) ritual.
9. **icon:** (a) witness (b) image (c) trial (d) judgement.
10. **jabber (n):** (a) reputation (b) justice (c) selection (d) nonsense.
11. **kook:** (a) honest (person) (b) sincere (person) (c) simple (fellow) (d) crazy (person).
12. **lionise:** (a) reject (as worthless) (b) acquire (as rare) (c) treat (as celebrity) (d) accept (with pleasure).
13. **miasma:** (a) bad influence (b) holy water (c) mysterious object (d) confused person.
14. **numinous:** (a) divine (b) monotonous (c) interesting (d) desperate.
15. **oafish:** (a) pleasant (b) awkward (c) delicate (d) inspiring.
16. **pot-pourrie:** (a) quarrelsome person (b) variety of dishes (c) routine work (d) literary mixture.
17. **rabble-rouser:** (a) stage actor (b) bus-driver (c) crowd-puller (d) trouble-maker.
18. **stodgy:** (a) old-fashioned (b) modern (c) modest (d) duplicate.
19. **tittle-tattle:** (a) discussion (b) description (c) gossip (d) competition.
20. **volatile:** (a) unwell (b) unstable (c) unkind (d) unlawful.

ANSWERS

1. **apogee:** (d) climax, highest point.
—It is only when corruption reaches the *apogee* of toleration that the political structure begins to crumble.
2. **besmirch:** (a) dishonour, slander.
—It is alleged (that) some photographers working for pornographic press in the West try to *besmirch* the fair name of the celebrities.
3. **cognoscenti:** (b) critic (fine arts), connoisseur.
—The *cognoscenti*, of course, is the ultimate judge of what a writer offers to the reading public.
4. **dénouement:** (b) outcome, end.
—The *dénouement* of all coalition governments based on convenience of marriage results in factional feuds and clash of egos.

5. **euphoria:** (c) elation, pleasure, excitement.
—The *euphoria* of victory over the enemy did not last long when people realized the heavy losses their armed forces had suffered.
6. **fuehrer:** (d) leader (tyrannical).
—Gradually Hitler became the undisputed *fuehrer* of the people and caused unprecedented upheaval in the world.
7. **grill:** (a) question.
—As an accused in the land-grab case, the Corporator was *grilled* by the police.
8. **hub-bub:** (c) disturbance, loud noise.
—The meeting was nothing but a *hub-bub* where everyone present was either shouting or gesticulating.
9. **icon:** (b) image, statue, painting (of holy person).
—In an increasingly complex world *icons* like Mother Teresa could stop a war to carry out the wounded children.
10. **jabber (n):** (d) nonsense, meaningless talk.
—The rationalist ridicules astrological predictions and dismisses them with contempt as nothing but *jabber*.
11. **kook:** (d) eccentric or crazy person.
—No body takes him seriously for being both a bore and a *kook*.
12. **lionise:** (c) treat as celebrity or important person.
—Human nature tries to *lionise* those who achieve success in no time.
13. **miasma:** (a) bad influence or atmosphere.
—The entire speech of the chief guest left only a *miasma* of despair on the listeners.
14. **numinous:** (a) divine, inspiring awe.
—The painter kept a look on the mundane world while pursuing an art which in its expressive colours and contours becomes *numinous*.
15. **oafish:** (b) awkward, idiotic.
—The person who ruined her acting career was none other than her husband with uncouth and *oafish* manners.
16. **pot-pourrie:** (d) musical or literary mixture/variety.
—The English theatre today in India locates itself somewhere in the middle of *pot-pourrie* (of folk music and modern drama).
17. **rabble-rouser:** (d) agitator, trouble-maker.
—More persons are joining politics today as *rabble-rousers* than for upholding the principles of politics.
18. **stodgy:** (a) old-fashioned, dull.
—Some knowledgeable persons feel that the *stodgy* British Monarchy acquired a new lease of life after Diana's marriage into the royal family.
19. **tittle-tattle:** (c) gossip.
—Sometimes a little *tittle-tattle* in the busy schedule of life, does a lot of good to our tired nerves.
20. **volatile:** (b) unstable, fickle.
—The subordinates were always in a state of panic because of the *volatile* personality of their boss.

TEST OF REASONING—I

Qs. 1 to 11. Find out the missing number:

- 1 1, 2, 6, 24,
(a) 48 (b) 72 (c) 96
(d) 120 (e) None of these
- 2 2, 3, 5, , 17
(a) 8 (b) 9 (c) 11
(d) 12 (e) None of these
- 3 1, 2, , 4, 8, 32
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3
(d) 4 (e) None of these
- 4 5, 6, 7, 11, 19, 28,
(a) 41 (b) 47 (c) 55
(d) 59 (e) None of these
- 5 11; 4, 7, 15, 6, , 16, 14, 2
(a) 4 (b) 7 (c) 8
(d) 9 (e) None of these
- 6 , 7, 8, 14, 16, 21
(a) 3 (b) 5 (c) 4
(d) 6 (e) None of these
- 7 3, 7, 6, 15, 11,
(a) 27 (b) 26 (c) 18
(d) 21 (e) None of these
- 8 , 3, 10, 39, 172
(a) zero (b) 1 (c) -2
(d) 2 (e) None of these
- 9

13	10
21	64
14	25
19	33

- 10 (a) 100 (b) 81 (c) 36 (d) 9 (e) 16

3	6
7	40
7	16
5	2

- 11 (a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 5 (d) 8 (e) 9

5	17
3	7
22	16
10	12

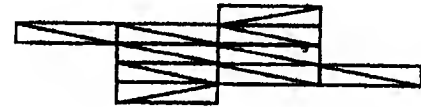
- (a) 8 (b) 16 (c) 4 (d) 6 (e) 2

Qs. 12 to 18. Find the odd-man out:

- 12 (a) EGJD (b) MORL (c) XZCW

- (d) HJNG (e) QSVF
- 13 (a) POMK (b) VTRP (c) MKIG
(d) GECA (e) LJHF
- 14 (a) XWZY (b) QPSR (c) KJML
(d) EDHG (e) JILK
- 15 (a) XC (b) OL (c) UG
(d) QJ (e) RI
- 16 (a) KLNQ (b) FGIM (c) VWYB
(d) DEGI (e) MNPS
- 17 (a) be4K (b) km2Z (c) df3M
(d) ab7J (e) hl6Y
- 18 (a) 14C11 (b) 25W2 (c) 20K9
(d) 8F3 (e) 26P10

Questions 19 and 20 are based on the figure given below:



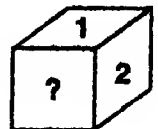
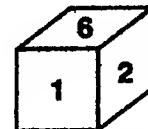
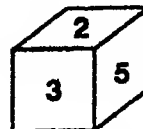
- 19 How many triangles are there in the figure?
(a) 20 (b) 24 (c) 28
(d) 30 (e) None of these
- 20 How many rectangles does the figure have?
(a) 18 (b) 24 (c) 30
(d) 32 (e) None of these

Qs. 21 to 23. Given below are the alphabets in their proper order. Make sets of two letters each and arrange these sets in reverse order, starting with YZ and ending with AB.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

- 21 Which letter would be to the left of M? (L ← R)
(a) N (b) P (c) O (d) K (e) None of these
- 22 Which letter would be exactly in the middle of 14th letter from your right and 17th letter from your left?
(a) K (b) P (c) M (d) L (e) None of these
- 23 Which popular word can be formed with 10th, 12th, 15th and 25th letters of the series if you start counting from your left?

Qs. 24 and 25. The three figures given below show a dice in three different positions. Your task is to find out the numbers on different faces of the dice and answer the questions accordingly.



- 24 Which number is opposite 4?
(a) 5 (b) 1 (c) 2 (d) 3 (e) can't say
- 25 Which number is there on the face of the dice having question-mark?
(a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) 6 (e) can't say

NON-VERBAL SERIES

Given below are two sets of figures, the Problem Figures and the Answer Figures marked A, B, C, D and E. You have to say which of the Answer Figures would be the next one in the series of Problem Figures.

PROBLEM FIGURES

ANSWER FIGURES

A B C D E

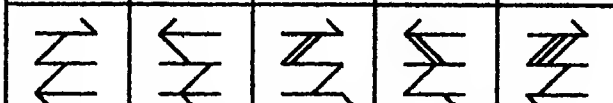
26.	
27.	
28.	
29.	
30.	
31.	
32.	
33.	
34.	
35.	
36.	
37.	
38.	

A	B	C	D	E

39.



40.



41.



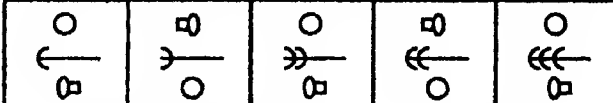
42.



43.



44.



45.



46.



47.



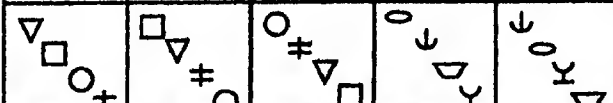
48.



49.



50.



51.



52.



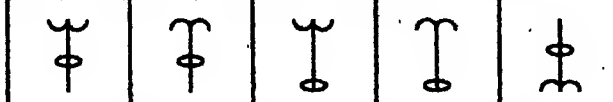
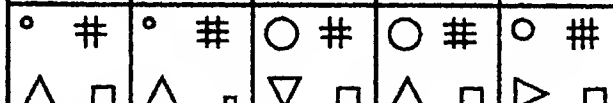
A

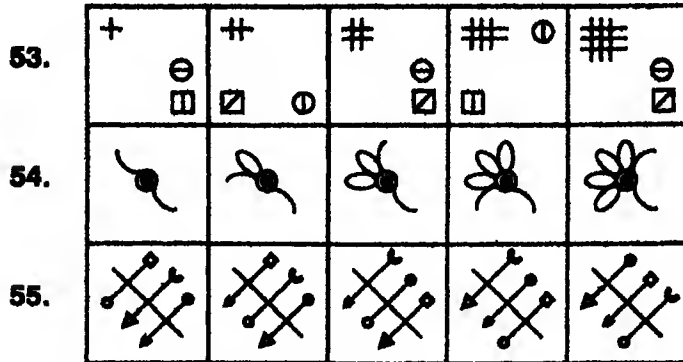
B

C

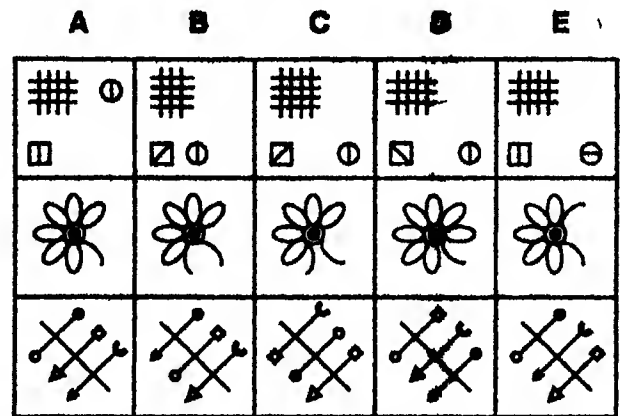
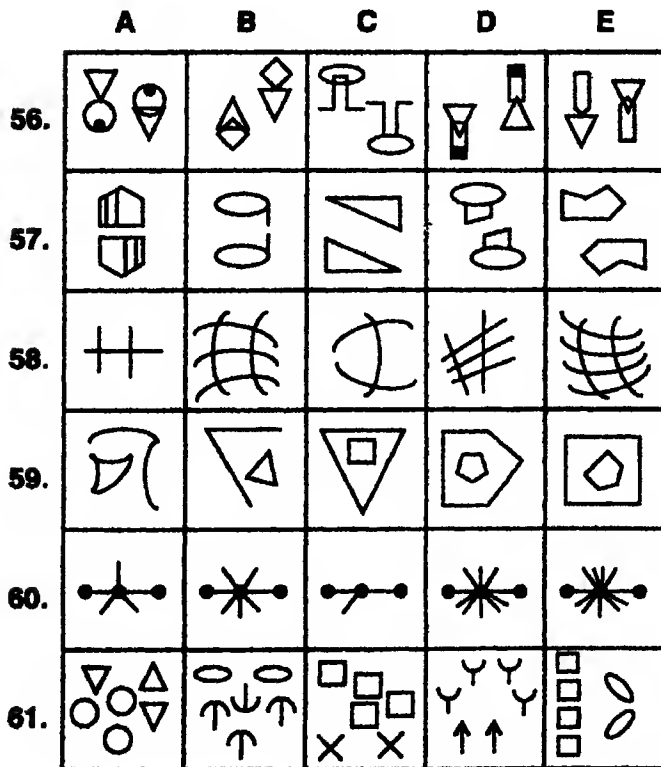
D

E

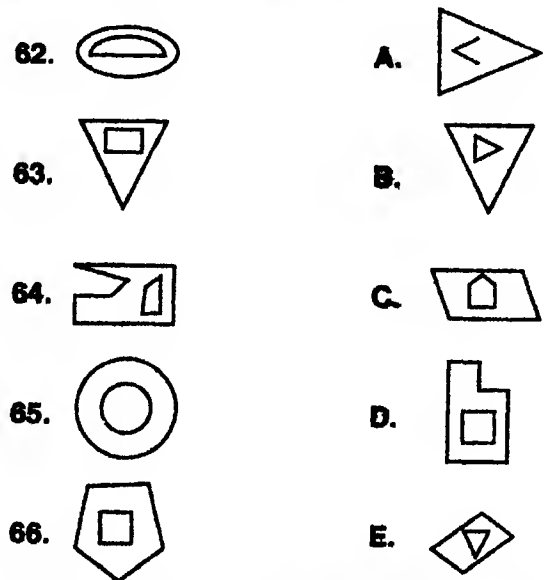




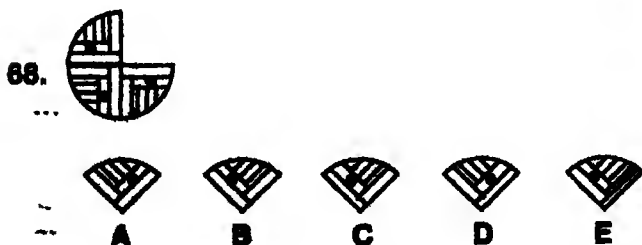
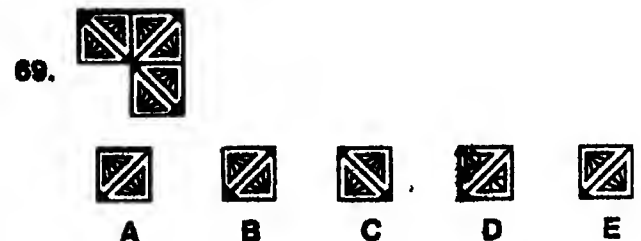
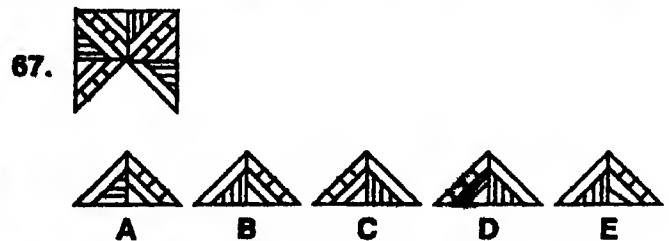
Find the odd-man out:



Match the following figures with A, B, C, D and E on the basis of common characteristics.



In each of the following questions, a part of the figure is missing. Your task is to find out this missing part from A, B, C, D and E.



In questions 70 to 75, figure II has a definite relationship with figure I. Find out from A, B, C, D and E, the figure that has an identical relationship with figure III.

PROBLEM FIGURES				ANSWER FIGURES					
	I	II	III	IV	A	B	C	D	E
70.				?					
71.				?					
72.				?					
73.				?					
74.				?					
75.				?					

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- (d) Go on multiplying numbers with 2, 3, 4, 5 respectively.
- (b) Each number is double -1 of the preceding number.
- (b) Each number is the product of its two preceding numbers.
- (c) Go on adding 1^2 ; 1^3 ; 2^2 ; 2^3 ; 3^2 ... to numbers respectively.
- (d) Make sets of three; first number is the total of next two numbers.
- (c) There are two series, 4, 8, 16 ... and 7, 14, 21 ...
- (c) The series is, $3 + 2^2 = 7$; $7 - 1^2 = 6$; $6 + 3^2 = 15$; $15 - 2^2 = 11$; $11 + 4^2 = 27$.
- (d) The series is, $(2 + 1) \times 1$; $(3 + 2) \times 2$; $(10 + 3) \times 3$; $(39 + 4) \times 4$.
- (e) The arrangement is $37 - 33 = 4$ and square of 4 is 16.
- (b) The arrangement is $5^2 - 3^2$, i.e. $25 - 9 = 16$.
- (c) The inner number in the quarter is the average of two numbers near it, $\frac{5+3}{2}$.
- (d) 13. (a) 14. (d) 15. (c) 16. (c)
- (e) Number the letters according to their position in the alphabetical order. Add the numbers of the first two letters and subtract the total from the number of last capital letter, e.g. $b(2) + e(5) = 7$; $K(11) - 7 = 4$.
- (d) Subtract the last number from the first and match the remaining number with its corresponding letter, e.g. $14 - 11 = 3$, which is the number of C.
- (d) 19. (d) 20. (c) 21. (b) 22. (a) 23. (d)
- (c) 24. (c) 25. (a)

For solving the next type of questions, the following guidelines might prove helpful.

- Study each individual figure of question separately as well as in relationship with other figures.
- The figures may change places according to a set pattern. The figures may move clockwise, anti-clockwise, right and left, up and down, corner to corner or along certain points.

- The pace of figures may be different. They may have a uniform speed or gain or lose a step with each movement. (Examples: 26, 28, 33, 41 etc.)
 - The figures may gain or lose something along the movement or as such. (Examples: 27, 30, 34, 36, 37, 40, 52, 54 etc.)
 - The figures may change their size alternately or gradually. (Example: 43).
 - The figures may interchange places according to a set pattern. (Examples: 50, 53, 55 etc.)
- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. D | 27. A | 28. A | 29. C | 30. E |
| 31. D | 32. C | 33. A | 34. C | 35. B |
| 36. B | 37. E | 38. B | 39. C | 40. D |
| 41. B | 42. D | 43. A | 44. E | 45. A |
| 46. D | 47. E | 48. B | 49. B | 50. D |
| 51. E | 52. C | 53. D | 54. B | 55. A |
- D. The triangles ought to be pointing in the same direction.
 - B. In all the others, the figures are placed in opposite direction.
 - E. In all the others, the horizontal and vertical lines have difference of one.
 - D. In all the others, the outer figure has one side less as compared to the inner figure.
 - D. The lines below the bar ought to be one more in number than the lines above the bar.
 - A. In all the others, the proportion between the figures is 2 : 4.
 - E. The inner figure is half of the outer figure.
 - C. The outer figure has one side less.
 - D. The inner figure is the missing part of the outer one.
 - B. Both are same type of figures with a difference in size.
 - A. The inner figure has one side less.
 - B 68. C 69. E 70. A 71. D
 - A 73. E 74. B 75. C

TEST OF REASONING—II

Qs. 1-8. Find the odd-man out:

1. (a) scarlet (b) vermilion (c) crimson
(d) green (e) red
2. (a) sledge (b) tram (c) phaeton
(d) tonga (e) victoria
3. (a) sneeze (b) hiccup (c) gasp
(d) faint (e) shout
4. (a) laughter (b) pain (c) regret
(d) cheerfulness (e) worry
5. (a) furlong (b) foot (c) ounce
(d) chain (e) yard
6. (a) turban (b) cap (c) hat
(d) mask (e) wig
7. (a) aorta (b) ventricle (c) bronchus
(d) auricle (e) artery
8. (a) Pluto (b) Moon (c) Saturn
(d) Uranus (e) Mercury

Qs. 9-16. In each question below is given a pair of words that have certain relationship between them. Your task is to find out from (a), (b), (c) and (d) the pair of words with similar relationship.

9. hunger : food
(a) sleep : bed (b) exercise : body
(c) love : heart (d) curiosity : learning
10. penalty : reward
(a) relent : melt (b) opaque : transparent
(c) relax : fatigue (d) strain : stress
11. flemingo : stork
(a) horse : animal (b) atlas : maps
(c) time : hour (d) gold : silver
12. gallon : liquid
(a) yard : mile (b) fathom : square
(c) celsius : temperature (d) centimetre : scale
13. tail : animal
(a) light : torch (b) thread : needle
(c) wings : bird (d) drop : water
14. sword : fencer
(a) glove : boxer (b) book : student
(c) stick : oldmen (d) pole : rope-walker
15. jingle : bell
(a) creak : door (b) hammer : nail
(c) siren : workers (d) horn : traffic
16. month : year
(a) second : hour (b) day : week
(c) hour : time (d) February : leap-year

Qs. 17-21. Match the following questions with (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) on the basis of similar relationship among the items. The order of occurrence may not be the same.

17. blue : yellow : white
(a) ornaments : gold : silver
18. men : women : teachers
(b) bone : body : marrow
19. wood : tables : doors.
(c) sparrow : crow : parrot
20. physics : science : chemistry.
(d) bread : flour : cake
21. pearl : shell : sea.
(e) homoeopathy : Ayurved ; treatment

Qs. 22-27. Each of the following words is written in a code language as well. The small letters are codes for the letters in the word. Your task is to find out the right code for letter enclosed in the box.

22. L U N A C Y
(a) s (b) w (c) j (d) d (e) m (f) g
23. F A B R I C
(a) q (b) w (c) x (d) h (e) s (f) z
24. A L I G H T
(a) v (b) q (c) s (d) d (e) u (f) p
25. T R A N C E
(a) x (b) m (c) w (d) u (e) k (f) s
26. G E N T R Y
(a) k (b) p (c) x (d) j (e) u (f) m
27. B O I L E R
(a) d (b) k (c) h (d) x (e) q (f) f

Qs. 28-30. In a certain code:

'bing ping ming jing' means 'All problems are serious',
'ring ding bing sing' means 'Men have many problems',
'ming zing ting sing' means 'Some men are happy' and
'wing ting ring ping' means 'Some have serious ailments'.

28. What is the code for 'happy'?

- (a) ting (b) sing (c) zing
(d) ming (e) None of these

29. What does 'ping' stand for?

- (a) ailments (b) have (c) some
(d) serious (e) can't say

30. What would be the code for, 'Some problems are serious'?

- (a) ting ping wing ring
(b) ring jing bing ming
(c) ping bung ting ming
(d) zing ring ping ming
(e) wing ding sing jing

Qs. 31-34. Four men A, B, C, D and four women E, F, G, H are sitting round a table in the following way:

No two men or two women are sitting together.

H is facing E on the opposite side of the table.

G is between C and B

F is to the right of A

C is to the left of H.

31. Between which two persons is D sitting?

- (a) G & H (b) E & F (c) E & G
(d) H & F (e) None of these

32. Whom is A facing exactly on the opposite side?

- (a) F (b) C (c) B
(d) D (e) None of these

33. Who are on the right and left of B?

- (a) G & E (b) E & F (c) F & G
(d) H & F (e) None of these

34. Which of the following statements is wrong?

- (a) H is to the left of A.
(b) D is facing A.
(c) F is facing G.
(d) G is to the right of B.
(e) A is between F and H.

Qs. 35-36. A lady distributed bananas, oranges and

apples among beggars. She gave three bananas to each child, two oranges to each man and one apple to each woman. There were 125 pieces of fruits in all and bananas were 32 more in number than oranges. The number of beggars was 64.

35. How many apples were there?
 (a) 30 (b) 28 (c) 27
 (d) 25 (e) None of these
36. How many children got fruits?
 (a) 17 (b) 24 (c) 26
 (d) 22 (e) None of these

Qs. 37-38. The following questions have five words each. Four out of the five words are connected with the word 'OCTOBER' in a definite way while one is different. Your task is to find this odd-man out.

37. (a) BORE (b) ROBOT (c) CORE
 (d) BOOT (e) TREE
38. (a) TOWER (b) CHEER (c) BRUTE
 (d) REACT (e) BROOD

Qs. 39-40. A family of six has a middle-aged couple, their daughter and her husband and a son and his wife. The women are Asha, Shakuntala and Uma and the men are Girish, Navin and Rajendra.

Navin is not Asha's husband.
 Shakuntala is Rajendra's mother-in-law.
 Girish is Asha's father

39. Rajendra is Navin's
 (a) father (b) son (c) brother-in-law
 (d) father-in-law (e) can't say
40. Which of the following is the right statement?
 (a) Shakuntala is Girish's wife.
 (b) Girish is not Asha's father
 (c) Shakuntala is Girish's daughter
 (d) Uma is Shakuntala's daughter
 (e) Navin is Girish's brother-in-law

SYLLOGISMS

In each question below are given two statements followed by four conclusions numbered, I, II, III and IV. You have to take the two given statements to be true even if they seem to be at variance with commonly known facts. Read all the conclusions and then decide which of the given conclusions logically follow from the two given statements, disregarding commonly known facts.

Statements:

41. 1. All animals are bats.
 2. All bats are camels.

Conclusions:

- I. Some camels are animals.
 II. All bats are animals.
 III. All camels are bats.
 IV. Every camel is either an animal or a bat.
- (a) Only I follows.
 (b) Only II follows.
 (c) Only III follows.
 (d) Only IV follows.
 (e) None follows.

Statements:

42. 1. Some drivers are elephants.
 2. All elephants are fat.

Conclusions

- I. Some elephants are not drivers.
 II. Every fat creature is an elephant.

- III. Some drivers are fat.
 IV. Some drivers are not elephants.

- (a) Only I follows.
 (b) Only II and III follow.
 (c) Only III follows.
 (d) Either II or IV follows.
 (e) Only III and IV follow.

Statements:

43. 1. Some Indians are jugglers.
 2. Some jugglers are kings.

Conclusions:

- I. Some jugglers are not Indians.
 II. Some kings are Indians.
 III. Every juggler is either an Indian or a king.
 IV. No Indian is a king.
- (a) Only I and II follow.
 (b) Only III and IV follow.
 (c) Only III follows.
 (d) Either II or IV follows.
 (e) Any one of the three follows.

Statements:

44. 1. Some figs are grapes.
 2. Some apples are grapes.

Conclusions:

- I. Some grapes are figs as well as apples.
 II. Some grapes are neither apples nor figs.
 III. Every grape is either an apple or a fig.
 IV. No grape is apple as well as fig.
- (a) Either I or II follows.
 (b) Either I or IV only follows.
 (c) Either II or III follows.
 (d) Either III or IV follows.
 (e) Only any one of the four follows.

Statements:

45. 1. All knives are needles.
 2. Some needles are machines.

Conclusions:

- I. Some knives are machines.
 II. Some machines are not needles.
 III. Some machines are needles.
 IV. Every machine is either a needle or a knife.
- (a) Only I follows.
 (b) Only II follows.
 (c) Only III follows.
 (d) Either I or III follows.
 (e) Either II or III follows.

Statements:

46. 1. Doors are higher than trees but shorter than windows.
 2. Trees are higher than poles but shorter than houses.

Conclusions:

- I. Windows are higher than houses.
 II. Doors are shorter than houses.
 III. Poles are the shortest among the five.
 IV. Doors are shorter than poles.
- (a) Only I and II follow.
 (b) Only IV follows.
 (c) Only III follows.
 (d) Only II follows.
 (e) Any one of the four follows.

Statements:

47. 1. All mangoes are nuts.

2. All pineapples are nuts.

Conclusions:

- I. Some nuts are neither mangoes nor pineapples.
- II. Some nuts are mangoes as well as pineapples.
- III. The nuts that are pineapples are not mangoes.
- IV. Some mangoes are not nuts.

- (a) Only I and II follow.
- (b) Either II or III follows.
- (c) Only IV follows.
- (d) Either I or II follows.
- (e) Any one of the four follows.

Statements:

- 48. 1. Some rivers are pools.
- 2. All waterfalls are pools.

Conclusions:

- I. All pools are rivers.
- II. Some rivers are pools.
- III. There are some waterfalls which are not pools.
- IV. All pools are either rivers or waterfalls.

- (a) Only I follows.
- (b) Only II follows.
- (c) Only III follows.
- (d) Only IV follows.
- (e) None follows.

In each question below is given a statement followed by three assumptions, numbered I, II and III. An assumption is something supposed or taken for granted. You have to consider the statement and the assumptions and then decide which of the assumptions is implicit in the statement. Then decide which of the answers is correct.

Statement:

49. When Mr and Mrs Singh reached the hotel on Monday, Mr Singh ordered chicken curry while his wife ordered a plate of mixed vegetable and salad.

Assumptions:

- I. Mr Singh is a non-vegetarian while his wife is vegetarian.
- II. Mrs Singh does not like non-vegetable preparations of that particular hotel.
- III. Mrs Singh does not take non-veg. on Mondays, otherwise she too is a non-vegetarian.

- (a) Only I is implicit.
- (b) Only II is implicit.
- (c) Either I or II is implicit.
- (d) Only any one of the three is implicit.
- (e) Only III is implicit.

Statement:

50. Several sensitive files containing record of some criminal activities were destroyed when a fire broke out in the record room of an office.

Assumptions:

- I. It was a case of sabotage.
- II. The fire was accidental.
- III. The files were not arranged properly.

- (a) Both I and II are implicit.
- (b) Either I or II is implicit.
- (c) Either II or III is implicit.
- (d) Only III is implicit.
- (e) Only any one of the three is implicit.

Statement:

51. During certain years, the Nobel Prize in literature was not awarded to anyone.

Assumptions:

- I. No author could produce work fit for the standard set for the Nobel Prize.
- II. The money fixed for the Prize was not released by the bank.
- III. The authors selected for the Prize rejected it.

- (a) Only I is implicit.
- (b) Only II is implicit.
- (c) Only III is implicit.
- (d) None is implicit.
- (e) Either I or II is implicit.

Statement:

52. The prime doctrine of the 21st century is going to be globalism, which in essence means One Worldism.

Assumptions:

- I. With the whole world becoming one entity, there would be no need of passports and VISAs for going from one country to the other.
- II. All the countries have decided to merge into one another and adopt common codes.
- III. There would be one common government for all the nations of the world.

- (a) Only I is implicit.
- (b) Only II is implicit.
- (c) Only III is implicit.
- (d) Any one is implicit.
- (e) None is implicit.

Statement:

53. Most of the persons involved in smuggling drugs and weapons are caught by the Border Security Force of India.

Assumptions:

- I. The contrabands are smuggled from neighbouring countries.
- II. The B.S.F. people are extremely alert.
- III. The smugglers are very careless hence they get caught.

- (a) Only I and III are implicit.
- (b) Only I and II are implicit.
- (c) Only II and III are implicit.
- (d) All are implicit.
- (e) Only II is implicit.

Statement:

54. In almost all the countries, women are now fighting for their rights and are claiming equality with men.

Assumptions:

- I. Men have never treated women as their equals.
- II. The countries in which women are not fighting for their rights are very few.
- III. For centuries, women just accepted the second place in society as their misfortune.

- (a) Only I and II are implicit.
- (b) Only II and III are implicit.
- (c) Only I and III are implicit.
- (d) All are implicit.
- (e) None is implicit.

Statement:

55. Persons, living or serving in crowded metropolitans feel very lonely and lost while those, who live in rural areas are far away from such loneliness.

Assumptions:

- I. People in rural areas are very friendly and treat

an outsider as a member of family.

II. In big cities, people are too busy to befriend an outsider.

III. Human beings living in rural and urban areas are basically different type of persons.

- (a) Only I and II are implicit.
(b) Only III is implicit.
(c) Only II and III are implicit.
(d) Only I is implicit.
(e) Only II is implicit.

Statement

56. Thousands of people lay bunches of flowers near the 13th pillar of the tunnel in Paris where Princess Diana had the fatal accident.

Assumptions:

I. These flowers block traffic in the tunnel.

II. Diana was very close to peoples' hearts.

III. There were no survivors after the accident.

- (a) Only I is implicit.
(b) Only II is implicit.
(c) Only III is implicit.
(d) None is implicit.
(e) All are implicit.

In each question below is given an assertion A, followed by two reasons RI and RII. Apply the reasons to the statement and mark your answers as follows:

- (a) Only RI is the reason for A.
(b) Only RII is the reason for A.
(c) Both RI and RII are the reasons for A.
(d) Either RI or RII is the reason for A.
(e) Neither RI nor RII is the reason for A.

57. A. Most of the rivers of North India are perennial rivers while those of the South shrivel into muddy pools or narrow streams during summers.

RI. South India does not have early summer rains like the North.

RII. Melting of Himalayan snow keeps a regular supply of water for the rivers of North India.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

58. A. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, his daughter, Mrs Indira Gandhi and then his grandson, Mr Rajeev Gandhi, all have been Prime Ministers of India from time to time.

RI. In India, Prime Ministership is by dynasty.

RII. They were the only persons who understood the duties and functions of a Prime Minister.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

59. A. Lots of people drinking handpump water in a district are suffering from abdomen diseases caused by excess of iron.

RI. The underground water in the area has more iron contents than average.

RII. The handpumps and the long pipes are made of iron, hence the iron keeps on dissolving in water as it passes through it.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

60. A. Gram Shilp Melas (handicraft fairs) are being arranged by the government in almost all the States from time to time round the year.

RI. The products displayed in these fairs are of a better quality than the mill or factory products.

RII. The government wants to help the rural folk and other craftsmen by finding market for their

products and thus raising their status by financial help.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

61. A. The dwellers of a particular district want their District Officer to be transferred from there.

RI. The District Officer is involved in some irregular practices.

RII. The D.O. is not sensitive to the problems faced by the district.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

62. A. There is a big drive to reduce the weight of school children's bag.

RI. Children have tender bones hence heavy school-bags might bend them.

RII. Heavy bags cost much more hence not so well to do parents cannot afford them.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

63. A. The maximum number of ads on TV are those of bathing and washing soaps.

RI. Soap is the only product that has too many brands.

RII. The TV audience selects soap on the basis of its attractive ad.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

64. A. Huge amount of money is given to persons who get killed or injured in train accidents.

RI. The government feels responsible for the safety of the persons who travel in a government mode of transportation.

RII. Basically train accidents are due to the negligence of the staff hence the department ought to pay for the damage caused.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Below is given a passage followed by several inferences which can be drawn from the facts stated in the passage. You have to examine each inference separately in the context of the passage and decide upon its degree of truth or falsity. Mark your answers:

- (a) if the inference is definitely true.
(b) if probably true.
(c) if doubtful as the adequate data is not available.
(d) if probably false.
(e) if definitely false.

The Prime Minister has written to the Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, asking them to personally monitor family welfare programme in their States in view of the continuing population problem they face. The PM noted that at the current rate, their States were likely to reach the replacement fertility rate of 2.1 per cent after several decades, whereas Kerala has already reached the fertility rate of 1.7. Similarly, the infant mortality rate was much higher in the States ranging from 73 to 89 per cent while in Kerala, it was 15 per cent. He felt that programme that emphasise female literacy and women's status be given priority as these were strong factors in determining family size. As these States comprise 40 per cent of India's population, their performance is crucial to the success of the country's family welfare programme. The PM urged the Chief Ministers to launch a vigorous campaign to combat this unchecked growth of population.

65. Kerala has launched the family welfare programme very effectively and has achieved quite a lot of success in

controlling population growth.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

66. It is only in these four States that the programme has failed to achieve its target.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

67. These four States have not tried to launch the family Welfare programme.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

68. The Chief Ministers of these States have too many children themselves hence the PM wants them to monitor the programme personally.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

69. The States which have high rate of illiteracy among women have not been able to launch the programme successfully.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

70. The Prime Minister is very particular regarding the implementation of family welfare programme.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

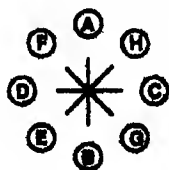
ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (d) All the others are shades of red.
2. (b) All the other vehicles are pulled by some domestic animal or the other.
3. (e) All the others are natural actions.
4. (a) This one is an act of display while all the others are related to feeling.
5. (c) All the others are used for measuring distance.
6. (d) All the others are head-wears.
7. (c) It is the only term among the five that is not related to heart.
8. (b) All the others are planets.
9. (d) One is satisfied by the other.
10. (b) They are opposites.
11. (d) Both are different items of a common thing, birds and minerals.
12. (c) The relationship is that of unit of measurement and the item measured.
13. (c) One is an essential part of the other.
14. (d) The relationship is that of the main equipment and the performer.
15. (a) The relationship is that of the special sound made by the item.
16. (b) Both are units of measurement of time, one and its next one.
17. (c) 18. (a) 19. (d) 20. (e)
21. (b)

For solving the next set of questions, sort out common letters/words and match them with common codes, e.g. E and R are common letters in qu. nos 26 and 27, so are the codes 'K' and 'x', but as 'x' occurs in qu. 23 as well, it is the code for 'R', while 'K' is the code for 'E'.

22. (e) 23. (b) 24. (f) 25. (d)
26. (c) 27. (c) 28. (c) 29. (d)
30. (c)

Qs. 31 to 34. The arrangement of sitting is:



31. (b) 32. (c) 33. (a) 34. (b)

35. (d)

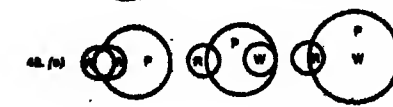
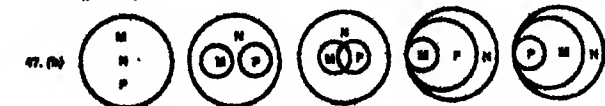
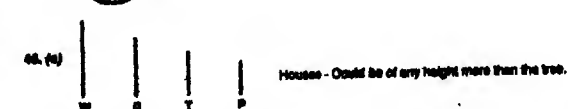
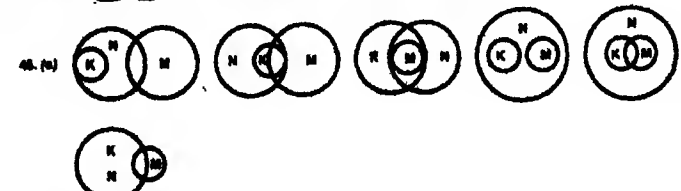
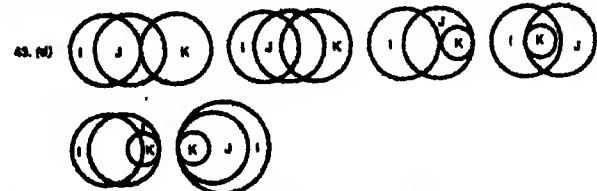
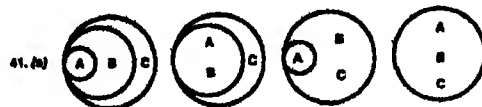
36. (d) 25 apples; 34 oranges; 66 bananas.
25 women; 17 men; 22 children.

37. (e) All the letters should be from the word; this one has an extra 'E'.

38. (b) All the others have only one letter that is not from the word, this one has two, 'E and H'.

39. (a) 40. (a)

The best way to solve the next type of questions is by drawing diagrams of all the probable situations and then reaching the fool-proof conclusion. Let each item be represented by a circle, irrespective of its size and draw the sketches on the basis of relationship among the items. Here are a few examples.



49. (d) 50. (b) 51. (a) 52. (e)
53. (b) 54. (d) 55. (a) 56. (b)
57. (b) 58. (e) 59. (a) 60. (b)
61. (d) 62. (a) 63. (e) 64. (c)
65. (a) 66. (c) 67. (d) 68. (c)
69. (b) 70. (a)

UTTAR PRADESH

Bedlam and violence in Assembly; Kalyan Singh stays CM following President's intervention

THE marriage of political compulsion, between the BJP and the BSP, collapsed on October 19, 1997 when BSP withdrew support to coalition government headed by Mr Kalyan Singh of BJP. Mr Kalyan Singh had taken over from Ms Mayawati on September 20, 1997, as part of an agreement between the two parties, under which Ms Mayawati was to be Chief Minister for six months, to be followed by Kalyan Singh for six months.

The withdrawal was a logical culmination of the growing contradictions within the coalition. Following the withdrawal of support Mr Kalyan Singh refused to resign, claiming majority and offering to display it on the floor of the House. In an unusual move, the Governor, Mr Romesh Bhandari, gave the Kalyan Singh government just two days to prove its majority in the House.

What followed on October 21, was a shameful act and a big blot on democracy in India. As soon as the House assembled at 12 noon, unprecedented bedlam broke out, with members trading blows and hurling chairs, microphones and other missiles at one another. This resulted in injuries to at least 12 MLAs, as also the Speaker Kesri Nath Tripathi. Finally the entire Opposition staged a walkout, accusing the BJP of violence, kidnapping and corrupt means to muster majority. Preliminary reports, however, indicate that violence was instigated by the opposition parties and not BJP.

The one-line motion moved by Chief Minister Kalyan Singh was carried by 222 votes to nil in the 425-member House. Kalyan Singh government basically survived due to split in the Congress Legislature Party and the BSP. 19 of the 37 MLAs of Congress formed a new group "Uttar Pradesh Loktantrik Congress" and supported the BJP government. 12 BSP MLAs also voted in

Recent Economic News

Busy Season Credit Policy Highlights

- Bank rate cut by 1% to 9%
- CRR to be lowered by 2% to 6% in phases, releasing Rs 6,500 crore.
- Pre-shipment export credit reduced by 1% across the board
- FCNR (B) rates capped at LIBOR
- Bridge loans brought back
- Banks can now finance Overseas Joint Ventures, subsidiaries
- Deposit rates for 30 days and above freed
- Separate Prime Lending Rates (PLRs) permitted for term loans of three years and above
- Interest on loans over Rs 25,000 and upto Rs two lakh freed, subject to 13.5% cap
- Mutual funds allowed to invest in overseas markets
- Banks freed to fix margins for advances against preference shares, debentures

Bridge Loans: The resumption of bridge loan facility will help industrial activity to pick up and could also serve as a catalyst for the revival of primary markets. While permitting banks to issue bridge loans against equity issues/flows, the RBI has, however, said that adequate caution and attention to security should be exercised by the banks. Also, the period of such loans should not exceed one year.

The guidelines for sanction of bridge loans should also be got approved by the boards of respective banks. The total amount of sanctions will have to be accommodated within the ceiling of 5 per cent of incremental deposits prescribed for investment of banks in shares.

Loans against shares: RBI's move to give freedom to banks to stipulate margins on loans to individuals against preference shares and debentures or bonds of corporate bodies is likely to increase financing against shares and bonds.

However, the measure is unlikely to have a major impact on bank advances against shares/bonds as relatively few individuals hold preference shares. With this credit policy, the Indian markets have taken their first steps towards capital account convertibility. The time has now come for the Indian institutions to start the process of integration with global markets.

favour

The happenings in the UP Assembly prompted the Congress and some constituents of UP to call for President's rule in UP. After prolonged deliberation and threats the Gujral government recommended imposition of President's rule in UP. However, President K R Narayanan, in an unprecedented move, sent back the Cabinet's decision after consulting with legal experts, who were of the opinion that developments in Uttar Pradesh assembly did not warrant clamping of President's rule, especially after Kalyan Singh had won the vote of confidence.

Faced with a Presidential 'No' the Union Cabinet was forced to reconsider its decision and after marathon discussions it was decided to reverse the decision.

MEDIA

Major changes in Prasar Bharati

THE Union government has effected sweeping changes in the revamped Prasar Bharati Act, scrapping provisions for constituting a Parliamentary Committee and a Broadcasting Council, to ensure full autonomy to All India Radio and Doordarshan.

The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment ordinance also reduces government presence in the Prasar Bharati Board.

The board will have a part-time chairman, an executive member and six part-time members.

In place of the earlier provision of a full-time member (finance) and member (personnel), there will now be ex-officio executive directors for both these posts, to

be appointed by the corporation.

The Directors General of AIR and Doordarshan are also proposed to be made ex-officio members of the board.

The board will have a representative from the I and B Ministry and two representatives from the corporation, of whom one would be elected by the engineering staff and the remaining by other employees.

The seven-year old Act, which had been notified on July 22, 1997, came into force on September 15, 1997.

The initiative was taken by Justice Sawant, who had suggested scrapping of the Parliamentary Committee and dilution of some other clauses in the original Act which he felt threatened the autonomy of the board.

Clause 13 of the original Act, which has now been scrapped, provided for setting up of a 22-member Parliamentary Committee, 15 from Lok Sabha and seven from Rajya Sabha, to oversee the functioning of the corporation.

Clauses 14 and 15, which, too, have been deleted, relate to establishment of a Broadcasting Council which includes four members of Parliament.

Under the Act, the Council was to have received complaints relating to programme and technical qualities, invasion of privacy, mis-representation, distortion or lack of objectivity from any person other than an employee of the corporation, who would claim to have been treated unjustly.

The scope of Press Council of India is proposed to be enhanced to include monitoring of Broadcasting services.

The amended Act clarifies that the corporation would ensure comprehensive broadcast coverage through the choice of appropriate technology and the best utilisation of "broadcast frequencies made available for public service broadcasting", and would also ensure high-quality reception.

Pruning the Centre's powers, the amended Act has stipulated that the corporation could formulate its own programme and advertisement codes and fix such limits on broadcasting of advertisements as considered necessary to ensure that adequate time was made

available for the promotion of the objectives of Prasar Bharati.

It has deleted a provision in the earlier Act which arms the Central government with the power to determine the maximum limit of broadcast time in respect of advertisements.

The Centre would also no longer be involved in fixing limits for levy fees and other charges. The amended Act gives full freedom in this respect to the corporation.

All property and assets of AIR and DD vested with the Centre would stand transferred to the corporation on perpetual lease on payment of a nominal fee of Re 1 per annum, according to the amended Act. The non-lapsable fund of the two media would also be transferred to the corporation.

The amended Act states that where the board persistently makes default, the Centre would give it a "reasonable opportunity" to show cause as to why it should not be superseded.

After considering the objections of the board, the Centre may propose to supersede the board in a report to both Houses of Parliament while it is in session.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

India celebrates golden jubilee of accession

ON October 26, 1997, India celebrated the golden jubilee of the accession of Jammu and Kashmir. On this day, fifty years ago, Maharaja Hari Singh of Kashmir had signed the instrument of accession, making the State an integral part of India.

This also marked the beginning of a golden chapter in the history of the Indian armed forces in Independent India as the Army and the Air Force headquarters worked in tandem and the first contingent of Indian infantry landed in Srinagar safely in the service of the nation.

The successful operations in Kashmir also cast the die for the role of the armed forces in Independent India and the budding nation's first Defence Minister Baldev Singh summed it up aptly in his message broadcast over All India Radio on December 1, 1947.

"The story of the deliverance of Srinagar will be an epic for all times and you (the armed forces) have proved to the

Recent Economic News

Gold Policy Eased

In a significant liberalisation of its gold policy, the Finance Ministry has decided to allow free export of gold by private banks and jewellery exporters for general retail sales in the domestic market. So far, gold could be imported by these designation agencies only for export or jewellery. This is supposed to be yet another step in the move towards capital account convertibility under the recommendations of the Narasimham committee report.

The move will also lead to more movement of gold in and out of the country for the purpose of jewellery exports. It will be important to note the new window created by the government. The export of jewellery will be subject to the same norms as was applicable to gold.

Under the new policy, holders of gold in the form of jewellery, bullion, coins, etc., can export gold for general retail sales in the domestic market. The new policy will also allow the export of gold for general retail sales in the domestic market.

A wide range of gold jewellery, including gold coins, bullion, etc., can now be exported for general retail sales in the domestic market.

The new policy will also allow the export of gold for general retail sales in the domestic market. The new policy will also allow the export of gold for general retail sales in the domestic market.

world that you are the true soldiers of the nation "

The Maharaja also invited Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, leader of the National Conference, to participate in the administration of the State. Sheikh Abdullah, who joined the Maharaja in his application for accession, flew to New Delhi for consultations with Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

Disturbed Area Bill passed

ON October 7, 1997, the Jammu and Kashmir legislative Assembly unanimously adopted the Disturbed Area Bill, 1997. The Bill replaces the five-year-old Disturbed Areas Act of 1997, which lapsed in October, 1997.

To check misuse, it has been provided that the act will be in operation for a particular period, subject to occasional reviews. Also, police officers would have to provide grounds within 24 hours of causing death or grievous hurt.

The Chief Minister, Mr. Farooq Abdullah, said that the Bill was needed because of the continuing militancy and assured the House that it will not be used to harm common people.

Army withdraws from three towns: Almost eight years after it was deployed for counter-insurgency operations in Kashmir, the Army, on October 7, 1997, announced progressive steps for a phased withdrawal from three militancy-prone towns of Srinagar, Baramullah and Anantnag. It will be replaced by the Jammu and Kashmir

police.

It was, however, cleared that the withdrawal was not tantamount to the withdrawal from the valley. The Army will, instead, be relocated to nearby rural areas to carry out anti-militancy operations.

If the experiment succeeds, more towns will be included in the list for withdrawal of the Army.

NAGALAND

Ceasefire extended

ON October 29, 1997, the Central government decided to extend the ceasefire with all militant groups for another three months, with effect from November 1, 1997.

In last three months, by and large, the ceasefire has held and there have been no major engagements between the security forces and the militant groups. However, there has been a steep increase in the number of inter-group clashes, killings and cases of extortions. In spite of many provocations, the security forces exercised considerable restraint to give the ceasefire a chance.

According to Home Minister, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, the issue of continuation of the ceasefire has been carefully examined by the government, taking into account various factors, especially the mood and desire of the people of Nagaland. The government hopes that with the extension of ceasefire, complete peace would prevail in Nagaland, which would ultimately lead to a proper political dialogue.

GUJARAT

New CM assumes office

A new Rashtriya Janata Party government led by Mr. Dilip Parikh assumed office in Gujarat on October 28, 1997, with the unconditional support of the Congress. Earlier Mr. Shankarsinh Vaghela has quit as Chief Minister following political differences with the Congress. The Congress had withdrawn support to the nearly one year old Vaghela government on October 20.

In February 1995, the BJP had won 121 seats in the assembly elections and for the first time in the history of Gujarat, a BJP ministry headed by Mr. Keshubhai Patel was installed. However, soon Mr. Vaghela, who was at that time a sitting BJP Lok Sabha member, revolted against the Patel government and hijacked 48 party legislators to Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh. Later, Mr. Patel was replaced by Mr. Suresh Mehta as the Chief Minister and the expulsion order of Mr. Vaghela from the party was withdrawn. However, the BJP could not win back the support of Mr. Vaghela, who was aspiring to become the Chief Minister.

With the Congress offering outside support, Mr. Vaghela formed a minority government.

Mr. Parikh is an industrialist by profession and a law graduate. He was elected to the assembly on a BJP ticket from the Dhanduka constituency in Ahmedabad. He, along with Mr. Vaghela, had parted ways with the BJP last year and formed the Mahagujarat Janata Party.

INDIA-USA

Pickering's visit a further boost to relations

THE exercise of India and the USA further probing each other on vital issues began on October 16, 1997 with the arrival of Under-Secretary of State Thomas Pickering.

The process of a US probe into the Indian mind had begun with the visit of Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, Karl Inderfurth, in September. The New York meeting between Prime Minister Gujral and President Clinton further

Recent Economic News



confirmed that Washington was genuinely interested in cultivating new ties with New Delhi.

During Mr Pickering's stay the two sides discussed bilateral, regional and multilateral issues. It was agreed that, effective from November 1, 1997, the maximum length of visas for tourists and temporary visitors for business will be ten years.

On Jammu and Kashmir, the US government acknowledged the seriousness of the problem of cross-border terrorism.

On expansion of the UN issue, India rejected the US proposal of Asia backing a regional candidate for permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council, asserting that the criteria for inclusion should be decided first on a global, non-discriminatory and equitable basis.

On the contentious issue of phasing out quantitative restrictions on imports by India, Mr Pickering assured New Delhi that it would continue on-going bilateral negotiations indicating Washington might not press for a second request to set up a panel for a dispute settlement body of WTO.

INDIA-PAKISTAN

Secretary-level talks resumed

INDIA and Pakistan injected fresh momentum into their bilateral dialogue with the sudden resumption, on October 25, 1997, of Foreign Secretary-level talks to evolve a mechanism for thrashing out substantive issues.

The two foreign secretaries, K. Raghunath and Shamshad Ahmed, met following an understanding between their respective Prime Ministers, I.K. Gujral and Nawaz Sharif, in their 75-minute breakfast meeting on the sidelines of the on-going summit of Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM).

While the Indian side was guarded on the development, the Pakistani Prime Minister said the meeting was "a major step forward" in the context of what he called "total impasse" at the New York parleys between the two Premiers.

The breakfast meeting took place

at Mr Sharif's suite in Caledonian hotel over traditional sub-continental menu.

The meeting, described as having been held in a "warm, cordial and friendly atmosphere" was the third this year, and second in a month. The two had met in Male in May and in New York last month during the special session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The two Prime Ministers also decided on enhancing people-to-people contacts by agreeing to increase the number of visas, especially for elderly people, women and children.

They also agreed in principle to increase the number of staff in their missions as required to cope with enhanced traffic.

India also offered to reopen its closed consulate in Karachi and welcomed a reciprocal move by Pakistan to reopen its mission in Mumbai.

Earlier Mr Sharif, exercising his right to speak at the closed-door executive session of the CHOGM summit, sought to raise the Kashmir issue, making a vain plea for a third party mediation and complaining that bilateral efforts with India were getting "nowhere".

Mr Gujral, who was also present at the meeting, chose to ignore the Pakistani outburst.

INDIA-EGYPT

Prime Minister Gujral visits Cairo

ON the last day of Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's two-day visit to Egypt, both countries signed three agreements on cooperation in customs and avoidance of double taxation, tourism and culture, heralding a new era in bilateral ties. Egypt also supported India's bid for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

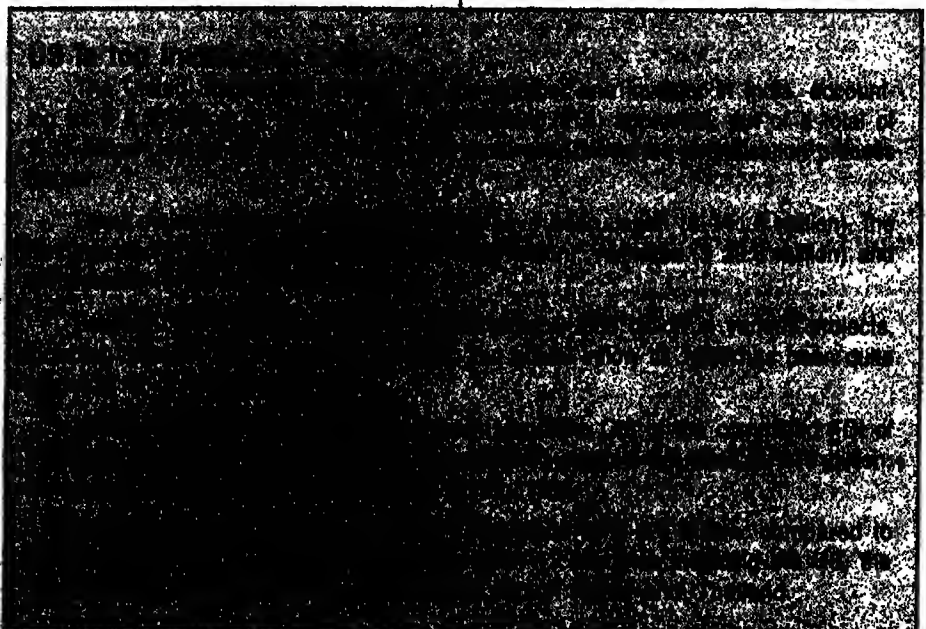
The visit was described by Mr Gujral as very successful.

Under the Customs agreement, tax authorities of both sides will work together for accurate assessment of customs duties and proper enforcement of related laws. The agreement, to remain valid for an unspecified period of time unless specially terminated, provides for greater inter-government administrative interaction and exchange of relevant information and intelligence in the field of customs.

As per the five-year agreement on tourism, the two countries will explore possibilities of joint ventures and exchange information on related activities.

The two countries also decided to promote exchanges in the field of art and culture to "contribute to the further strengthening of people-to-people contacts between the two countries".

The cultural agreement lists out de-



tails of the proposed exchanges in the fields of education, art and culture, films and sports for the period 1997-2000

It also provides for holding of seminars, book fairs, film festivals and grant of scholarships to facilitate greater interaction between the two sides, which have traditionally enjoyed good ties

INDIA-UK

Queen Elizabeth's Visit

QUEEN Elizabeth, the Queen of England, came to India on a six-day official visit from October 12, 1997. Among other places, she visited the Golden Temple and the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar.

Her visit to the Jallianwala Bagh was cause of lots of controversy. Lots of people, especially Punjabis, were of the view that she should apologize for the killings of Jallianwala Bagh by the British forces. However, she chose to remain quite and paid a silent tribute at the Martyr's memorial.

Queen Elizabeth was the first British monarch to visit Golden Temple and Jallianwala Bagh.

The visit, however, attracted lots of criticism. Most of it was directed towards the way the relations with India were handled during the visit. The Labour government's plan to use the visit for political mileage, apparently, misfired.

Particularly, the statements of British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, who was accompanying the Queen, on Kashmir, attracted lot of criticism.

However, during her meeting with Prime Minister Gujral, the diplomatic vow over Kashmir was put on a back burner and the two countries pledged to strengthen ties, especially economic.

INDIA-JAPAN

Largest Aid to India

JAPAN has pledged an amount of 132.725 billion yen (Rs 4157 crores) as Official Development Assistance to India, including 6193 million yen for the Punjab afforestation project. This is the largest bilateral assistance given by any country to India.

The Punjab afforestation project aims to bridge the gap between demand and supply of the forest products, reserve environmental degradation of the hill area of the State, increase the forest cover by planting on wasteland and improve the stocking and productivity of the forests. The aid package is in the form of soft loans administered by the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, an autonomous agency of the Japanese Government.

The other projects identified for assistance between the Sunhadri and Vizag transmission project, which will help in meeting the power demand of Andhra Pradesh, the Srisailem Left Bank Power Station Project III, Dhaulganga Hydroelectric Power Plant Construction Project II in UP and Bakreswar Thermal Power Station Project II in West Bengal.

The small-scale industries development programme has been sanctioned 30,000 million yen.

INDIA-RUSSIA

Defence pact extended

INDIA and Russia, on October 7, 1997, decided to extend by another decade, their long-term defence cooperation agreement which was scheduled to expire in 2000 A.D. The decision was taken after a meeting between the Russian President Mr Boris Yeltsin and the Indian Defence Minister Mr Mulayam Singh Yadav, during Mr

Yadav's five-day visit to Russia

The two countries also decided to set up a Joint Working Group (JWG) to broaden military-technical cooperation and for the sale and joint production of defence hardware.

Mr Yadav is the first Defence Minister of a country to be received by the Russian President Mr Boris Yeltsin. The Russian President also reiterated that his country would not sell arms to Pakistan.

The two leaders also discussed the situations in Jammu and Kashmir, Afghanistan and Central Asia. Under the current programmes decided upon, India may buy up to \$ 8 billion worth of arms from Russia by the year 2000 A.D.

INDIA-SOUTH AFRICA

Prime Minister Gujral's visit

MR Inder Kumar Gujral, Prime Minister of India, visited South Africa on October 7, 1997 for a 4-day visit. This was the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister. The main aim of the visit was to help build a strong future relationship.

The "strategic partnership" is aimed at the two countries together helping shape a new world order. It was South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki who had first made a public statement about such a partnership in New Delhi in 1996. The concept was further refined in the Red Fort declaration, which President Nelson

Railways: Fare hike

The railways on October 8, 1997, announced a 10 per cent hike in fares. The hike was to be implemented from October 10, 1997. The hike was to be implemented from October 10, 1997. The hike was to be implemented from October 10, 1997.

The hike was to be implemented from October 10, 1997. The hike was to be implemented from October 10, 1997. The hike was to be implemented from October 10, 1997.

Mandela visited India for the second time in March 1997.

Broadly speaking, the five basic aspects of the partnership are: Peace-keeping and peace-making operations in the Indian Ocean region; the promotion of moderate politics in the region—i.e. encouraging benign forms of government eschewing fundamentalism, terrorism and cross-border terrorism; the development of economic and political institutions in the region using regional capacities; fostering economic cooperation in the Indian Ocean region including intra-regional cooperation between different economic groupings; and lastly, but significantly, cooperating in international forums.

During Prime Minister Gujral's visit four agreements in mining, science and technology, tourism and cultural exchange programmes were signed. The aim was to impart "dynamic content to the strategic partnership" and achieve a target of \$ 2 billion bilateral trade by the year 2000.

Both countries also decided to enhance and intensify defence cooperation, with Mandela government offering a whole range of military hardware and equipment to meet India's requirements. The two sides, however, agreed that cooperation in defence should in no way inject an arms race in their region.

While South Africa offered fire power for 155 mm guns, avionics and night-vision equipment to India for its defence requirement, the Indian government agreed to provide more training slots to South African officials in various defence installations in the country. Besides, South Africa assured India that it would not sell lethal arms to India's neighbours.

INDIA-UGANDA

Gujral's visit to Kampala

ON October 5, 1997, Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral became the first Indian Prime Minister ever to pay an official visit to Uganda.

The major achievement of Mr Gujral's talks with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni was decision to conclude two agreements on air services and

cultural exchanges.

From the Indian foreign policy perspective, there have been two important developments. First, President Museveni has been further convinced that the strong Indian community here, as is the case elsewhere in other parts of Africa, have an important role to play in building up the country's economy. After Idi Amin captured power in 1972, about 100,000 people of Indian origin were forced to flee Uganda, so much so that their present number is currently dwindled down to 10,000. Mr Museveni now wants the Indians to come back because it is the Indians who are among Uganda's most skilled and semi-skilled professionals.

Secondly, there was a convergence of the views of Mr Gujral and the Ugandan President that the United Nations must be further democratised and more representative.

OIL SECTOR

Tax Code Cleared

THE Finance Ministry has cleared the Petroleum Ministry's proposal to slash tax rates for oil exploration as spelt out in the new petroleum tax code to complement the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). The new tax code envisages a reduction in the rate of corporation tax for oil exploration, from existing 48 per cent to around the national norm of 35 per cent imposed on other corporate entities.

Customs duty on the import of equipment for oil exploration is also expected to be waived as an incentive to encourage investment in this sector. The government has already announced a seven-year tax holiday for exploration and production contracts. The petroleum tax code will be used for drawing up the model contract to be offered to oil exploration companies along with seismic data packages.

PLANNING & ECONOMY

India warned on capital account liberalisation

WHILE the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is pushing on many countries towards capital account convert-

ibility, the World Bank has strongly advised India to take a cautious approach.

In a study titled, "India—sustaining rapid growth", the bank said. "While full capital account liberalisation remains a desirable longer-term goal, a cautious approach remains appropriate until fiscal consolidation has been achieved, the instruments and markets for indirect monetary control are fully developed, the commercial banking system is strengthened, and trade liberalisation is complete and exports sufficiently diversified."

Otherwise, it says, "there would be a danger of prompting volatile financial conditions and sharp cross-border surges in short-term funds that would be difficult to manage and could put serious stress on the domestic banking system

INFRASTRUCTURE

India needs two Mega Ports

IN a paper on "Potential Problems and Strategies for Port Development", by Mr R. Ramakrishnan, it has been pointed out that India needs two mega ports if it has to match with major ports like Rotterdam and Singapore, which handle more traffic than the eleven major ports of the country put together.

Giving figures for the traffic handled by the 11 major Indian ports compared to international ones in 1995, Mr Ramakrishnan said the total for Indian ports was 215 million tonnes, while Rotterdam alone handled 288 million tonnes and Singapore 274 million tonnes.

While Indian ports were poised to handle around 300 million tonnes by the turn of the century, the projection for 2005 was a gigantic figure of 650 million tonnes, a three-fold increase.

At least 300 additional berths are required in another 10 years.

Besides, the equipment at the present ports needs to be updated. Customs has to be made more user-friendly and railways are required to provide adequate rakes for easy movement of cargo and containers. Inland Container Depot (ICD) facilities are also inadequate at present.

SUMMITS; CONFERENCES

Commonwealth Summit

THE Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet (CHOGM), was held on October 24-27, 1997 at Edinburgh, Scotland. It concluded on a positive and upbeat mode. The meeting of the 54-nation body was inaugurated by Queen Elizabeth II. It was for the first time in 20 years that Britain hosted a CHOGM meet.

In their final communique the members reaffirmed their condemnation of "acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, which destabilise the political and social order of sovereign States".

The communique also acknowledged the need to work towards developing a "comprehensive legal framework" to deal with terrorism.

On the economic front there was a conscious effort to balance the free market votaries and the anti-free market forces. The economic declaration outlined measures to encourage investment flows, further ease trade barriers, reduce by half the number of people living below poverty line by 2015 AD and enhance the Commonwealth's role in building a consensus on global economic issues.

The economic issues became the target of focus in CHOGM for the first time.

In its preamble, the Edinburgh Declaration stressed on effecting participation by all countries in international economic decision-making, removal of obstacles that prevent developing countries playing their full part in the evolution of global economy and provision for benefits for all through international regimes affecting economic relations among nations.

G-15 Summit

THE three-day meeting of the Group of 15 (G-15) ended on November 5, 1997 at Kuala Lumpur. This was the seventh summit of G-15.

Formed in 1989 on the lines of G-7 industrialised nations, the G-15 comprises India, Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

In a communique issued at the end of the meet, the leaders rejected unilateral

measures, particularly those with extra-territorial effects, as in case of US trade laws, but pledged assistance to each other to catalyse South-South growth.

The leaders also asked industrialised countries to refrain from using protectionist measures to resolve their unemployment problems and fulfil commitments to raise Official Development Assistance (ODA) to at least 0.7 per cent of their gross national product.

Reiterating the importance of remaining as a cohesive group to safeguard trade interests of member nations, the G-15 communique said that they would hold consultations to prepare for review negotiations mandated under the Uruguay Round agreements on tariff and trade.

Seeking more capital and technology from the developed world (North), the communique said developing countries represent two-thirds of humanity and have significant potential for being an engine for global growth.

Earlier, India made a forceful plea to collectively address the issue of 'discriminatory and unjustified' protectionist measures of the developed countries, which were putting the G-15 members in a disadvantageous position in world trade.

The members openly backed the Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir's plea for tight regulation of currency regime. The leaders called upon the IMF and the World Bank to study the recent developments in currency market, with a view to appropriately regulate the market and make it more open and transparent.

Opening the Summit, Dr Mahathir said, "if we don't frame fair rules (to regulate the currency market) then the fight for independence will have to begin all over again, for the present market rules will surely result in a new imperialism, more noxious and debilitating than the old."

The deliberate devaluation of the currency of a country by currency traders purely for profit was a serious denial of the rights of the independent nations. Not only it impoverished the country but also negated many years of hard work and sacrifices. On the other hand the currency traders made billions of dollars of profits and paid absolutely no taxes to the coun-

tries they impoverished and made gains, he said.

The next summit is scheduled to be held in May 1998 in Egypt.

USA-CHINA

President Jiang's historic visit to USA

CHINESE President Jiang Zemin arrived in USA on October 26, 1997 for a landmark visit, described as a milestone towards establishing a new era in Sino-US relations. The eight-day visit, at the invitation of US President Bill Clinton, set the course of Sino-US relations towards 21st century.

This was the first visit by a Chinese head of State to the USA, in 12 years.

Although there were vivid differences over human rights, the summit meeting was described as successful. Agreements were reached on a broad range of security, economic, environment and law enforcement issues.

It was announced that China had agreed to buy \$ 3 billion worth of 50 Boeing jetliners and an accord had been reached for "nuclear certification" for China. This meant that American firms could now sell civilian nuclear reactors to Beijing in return for assurances to halt Chinese nuclear co-operation with Iran. The domestic Chinese nuclear market is potentially estimated to be worth \$ 60 billion. American officials hailed the business accord as the product of a successful policy of "constructive engagement" with Beijing.

On human rights, President Jiang rejected the US view on China's human rights, claiming that Beijing played a vital role in liberating Tibetans from slavery and put them on the path of prosperity. He also claimed that "human rights as enjoyed by the Chinese people today have never been as extensive. China regards the right to subsistence and development as basic and most important human right".

Before adequate food and clothing is ensured for the people, the enjoyment of other rights would be out of question, he said.

On opening of dialogue with Tibetan

religious leader Dalai Lama, President Jiang laid down three specific conditions after the acceptance of which Beijing may consider talking to him.

These are: acceptance of Tibet as an inalienable part of China, abandonment of the demand for independence and stopping all activities aimed at splitting the 'motherland'.

US President Bill Clinton's certification that China was cooperating with US efforts to check nuclear non-proliferation can be regarded as a major diplomatic victory for Beijing.

The sanction on sale of nuclear reactors and technology to China had been imposed in the aftermath of the 1989 Tiananmen Square incident. In return China assured USA that it will not supply nuclear technology and missiles to countries like Iran and Pakistan.

That China did not yield an inch to American pressures on its so-called human rights violations and its policy on Taiwan went on to show that China emerged as a clear winner in the summit meeting.

RUSSIA-JAPAN Peace treaty by 2000 A.D.

Russia and Japan have decided to set a deadline for signing a Russo-Japanese peace treaty by the year 2000. This would be the last legal formality required for officially bringing World War II to a conclusion. This, in turn, implies coming to grips with the outstanding territorial dispute between the two nations, over the four southern-most Kurile Islands just off the Japanese island of Hokkaido. The deadline of a peace treaty by the year 2000 was set on November 2, 1997 on the second day of the summit meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

Hashimoto and Yeltsin also pledged to reach an investment protection accord, to jointly promote the further integration of the Russian economy into the global economy; to increase cooperation over projects such as railway transportation in Siberia; to enhance dialogue over energy development; and to increase joint efforts regarding the peace-

ful use of nuclear energy.

Lately, there has been a conspicuous change in the Japanese attitude towards Russia. Hashimoto has said that Japan would actively support Russian membership of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) grouping and the World Trade Organisation.

SRI LANKA Continuing Violence

Even as President Kumaratunga announced her decision to push ahead a peace package, killings continued in Sri Lanka. On October 18, 1997, at least 100 LTTE rebels and two Sri Lankan naval personnel were killed.

Earlier, on October 15, Tamil Tiger militants exploded a huge bomb in the Sri Lankan capital. The massive blast which killed at least 26 people, 17 of them rebels, and injured at least 100, was caused by a truck bomb.

Besides the Galadari hotel, two other luxury hotels in the vicinity, World Trade Centre, Bank of Ceylon tower and several other buildings were damaged in the blast.

In spite of the blasts and other killings, President Kumaratunga said that she would press ahead with the peace package that the separatists had rejected earlier.

Kumaratunga has proposed constitutional changes that would give more autonomy to all of Sri Lanka's provinces, including those dominated by the Tamil minority. However, her offer falls short of the independence.

It has, however, been criticised as too generous by some Sinhalese.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan government has welcomed the US decision to ban the LTTE, dubbing it as a terrorist organisation.

A Sri Lankan foreign office spokesman said that "it is a victory of Sri Lanka's foreign policy and a testimony of the strong and healthy relationship that exists between Sri Lanka and USA".

Tamils have viewed the ban with deep regret and concern. They feel that the ban will hinder the peace process initiated by the present government.

MIDDLE EAST Accord on Security

The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, and the Palestinian leader, Mr Yasser Arafat, on October 8, 1997 agreed to resume Israeli-Palestinian cooperation on security issues. The two leaders held an unannounced pre-dawn summit in a bid to revive the troubled peace process. It was the first direct meeting between the two since February 9, 1997, when Israeli-Palestinian negotiations broke down due to Jewish settlement building and anti-Israeli attacks by Palestinian militants.

At the Erez meeting, the two leaders agreed to restore contacts between the Israel and Palestinian security services, which broke off after the September 4 Palestinian suicide bomb attack in Jerusalem.

The key issues facing the two sides are Israeli demands for a harsh Palestinian crackdown on Hamas and other violent groups, and Palestinian insistence that Israel freeze construction of Jewish housing in disputed areas and carryout promised troop withdrawals from West Bank rural areas.

IRELAND McAleese new President

Ms Mary McAleese has been elected as the new President of Ireland. A Catholic nationalist, who wants to see the two parts of Ireland united, McAleese proclaimed a deep regard for "unionist" friends in the troubled region and vowed to deal sensitively with their fears.

McAleese is the eighth President of Ireland and first to come from Northern Ireland, where she still lives with her family.

SOUTH AFRICA-LIBYA Mandela defies US, travels to Libya

SOUTH African President Nelson Mandela arrived in Tripoli on October 23, 1997 to a hero's welcome by thousands of Libyans. Mr Mandela has called for an end to UN sanctions.

Mr Mandela went by road to avoid

violating sanctions imposed by the UN in 1992, banning flights in or out of Libya.

Libya saw the visit as a moral victory and a slap at Washington.

The sanctions, which include a ban on arms sales, are aimed at forcing Libya to hand over two men suspected of bombing a PanAm jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, killing 270 people.

Gaddafi repeated his longstanding offer to try the two PanAm bombing suspects either in Libya or in a third country, a proposal Britain and the United States have rejected, insisting that their courts try the suspects.

ANTI-MINE CAMPAIGN US announces 'demining 2010 initiative'

THE US has announced a "demining 2010 initiative", which aims at eliminating the threat posed by land mines to civilians.

Mr Karl Inderfurth, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, has been assigned to serve as the new US Special representative for global, humanitarian demining.

The job of the special representative would be work in cooperation with other nations and organisations to coordinate and accelerate international demining efforts and to increase by roughly a factor of five—to 1 billion dollars a year—the public and private resources devoted worldwide to identifying and clearing mines, promoting public awareness about mines, and improving the means of detecting and removing mines.

The US had been unable to join the Ottawa demining pact out of its compulsions to provide force protection, particularly in Korea. But President Clinton had instructed the Pentagon to look into alternatives to anti-personnel mines, as well as new ways of demining. An airborne platform using advanced technology to discover hidden mines is being considered, among other things.

(Also see Special Feature on page 393)

458 DECEMBER '97 COMPETITION MASTER

CONFERENCE International Conference on Child Labour

THE International Conference on Child Labour has given a call for nations to initiate action for immediate removal of children from the most intolerable and extreme forms of child labour and to formulate and implement time-bound programmes for universal compulsory basic education.

The four-day conference was held at Oslo from October 27, 1997. India, in its concluding statement, described the conference as a precursor to a number of subsequent important developments, culminating in the creation of a climate conducive to elimination of all forms of child labour.

Governments were asked to ensure that social and economic policies were adopted to combat poverty by implementing measures to provide the families of child workers with sustainable employment and income opportunities. Existing national plans of action for the child should include strategies which integrated long, medium and short-term social, political and economic measures for the elimination of child labour.

The agenda for action urged governments to promote the empowerment of women and girls and ensure their full and equal participation in education and economic development at all levels. It was also said that judiciary and legal enforcement process should be strengthened.

STOCK MARKETS Worst-ever crash

THE Stock Markets world over witnessed the worst-ever crash on October 29, 1997, exactly a decade after the October 19, 1987 stock market crash. The crash is supposed to have been triggered by Hong Kong stock market collapse and the currency turmoil in other Asian markets.

The crash on Wall Street also had its impact on the Indian stock markets with share prices slumping at leading bourses due to panic selling by foreign institutional

investors. Most blue chip stocks touched their floor limit as the FIIS sold heavily to take profits to meet redemption pressures.

A day later, Asian and key markets managed to rally strongly due to the overnight rebound in the New York Stock Exchange. Markets climbed steadily in London, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia. Stock Markets in India also recovered.

Certain analysts blamed volatility, in part, on the speed of communication among markets and the inexperience of many young dealers, for the crash.

GULF Standoff between Iraq and UN over inspections

OVER past few weeks, Iraq had been turning back UN weapons inspection teams that included Americans, resulting in direct confrontation with the UN Special Commission, which is responsible for overseeing the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq charged that the US members were trying to prolong the punishing economic sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 Kuwait invasion, which resulted in Gulf war.

The sanctions, which ban sale of oil and bar air travel to and from Iraq, are to be lifted only after UN teams certify that Baghdad has complied with elimination of all weapons of mass destruction.

If Iraq continues to defy the UN Security Council, a number of actions can be taken against it. These include: Further strengthening of sanctions; limit sales of oil for food and medicines; and lastly military options which include using air strike to destroy suspected sites being used to build the weapons or firing cruise missiles at selected locations in Iraq.

According to the US envoy Jan Eliasson, if Iraq continues to defy it could lead to armed conflict once again.

CURRENT GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

ABBREVIATIONS

FMCT: Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty

ICBL: International Campaign to Ban Landmines

ICSE: Inter-Connected Stock Exchange Ltd

AWARDS

Nobel Prizes, 1997

For Chemistry: Paul D. Boyer of the University of California and John F. Walker of the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology of Cambridge, England, share half the prize money of one million dollars for their discovery of the process that makes the energy molecule adenosine triphosphate. The other half goes to Jens C. Skou of Aarhus University, Denmark, who discovered an enzyme to regulate the concentration of sodium and potassium in a cell.

For Economics: Robert C. Merton of the Harvard University and Myron Scholes of the Stanford University, for developing a formula to evaluate derivatives and other stock options.

For Literature: Dario Fo, an Italian playwright noted for politically-oriented comedy.

For Medicine: Stanley Prusiner, a US biochemist for his discovery relating to dementia-related diseases.

For Peace: The International Campaign to Ban Landmines and campaign co-ordinator Jody Williams, for their work for banning and clearing anti-personnel mines.

For Physics: Steven Chu of Stanford University (USA), Claude Cohen Tannoudji of College de France and Ecole Normale Supérieure (France) and William Phillips of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Maryland (USA), for development of methods to cool and trap atoms with laser light.

Booker Prize, 1997

ARUNDHATI Roy is the winner of the Booker Prize for 1997 for her first novel, *The God of Small Things*.

CSIR Prize, 1997

THE National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad, has been awarded the CSIR Technology Prize in the area of business development and technology marketing.

Dhanvantri Award, 1997

PIONEER of nuclear medicine in India, Ramchandra Dattatraya Lele of Jaslok Hospital, is the recipient of the Dhanvantri Award for 1997.

Indira Gandhi National Integration Award, 1997

THE Indira Gandhi Centre of Vishwa Bharati University, Shantiniketan, has been given the Rs 1.51 lakh Indira Gandhi National Integration Award in recognition of its role in strengthening the spirit of unity and mutual trust in the country.

Vyas Samman, 1997

KEDARNATH Singh has been awarded the Vyas Samman instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation for his collection of poems *Uttar Kabir Aur Anya Kavitaen*.

BOOKS

Accidental Death of an Anarchist, Mistero Buffo

THESE are some of the plays written by Dario Fo, the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature this year. His plays are satires on religion, politics and officialdom. Another play, *Can't Pay, Won't Pay* is a broadside against capitalism and his most recent work is *The Devil With Boobs* is a comedy set in the Renaissance.

DEFENCE

Breakthrough in Microprocessor Technology

INDIA has become self-reliant in special purpose microprocessor chip design *Anupama* which has 0.5 million transistors.

A Gallium Arsenide Foundry, a joint project of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Department of Electronics, has been commissioned and the first Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuit (MMIC) chip has already come out.

This is a very important component for missiles, aircraft and various other crucial systems.

The Pace Plus parallel processor, which is 20 times faster than Cray-Xmp super computer once denied to India, is now in production.

A highly perceptive wargame software called *Shatranj* (chess) has also been developed indigenously by defence scientists.

The Ramjet propulsion for the indigenous *Akash* missile, under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) of the DRDO, has also been developed. "Ramjet propulsion" is significant as it gives energy level twice that of solid propulsion.

PERSONS

Boyer, Paul

ONE of the recipients of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, Boyer's work showed how all living things, from bacteria to humans, make adenosine triphosphate (ATP), a tiny molecule that stores energy. He works in the University of California.

Chu, Steven

ONE of the recipients of the Nobel Prize for Physics, Chu works in the Stanford University, USA. He won the

award for developing a way to trap atoms.

Cohen-Tanoudji, Claude

ONE of the winners of the Nobel Prize for Physics, 1997. Born in Algeria, he is a French citizen and now works for the College de France and Ecole Normale Supérieure. The work of the Nobel laureates "contributed greatly to increasing our knowledge of the interplay between radiation and matter"

Fo, Dario

AN Italian playwright noted for politically-oriented comedy, Fo, 71, is the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, 1997. He has written several plays and one of the best known literary figures to win the Nobel Prize in recent years

Merton, Robert

ONE of the winners of the Nobel Prize for Economics, 1997, Robert C. Merton of the Harvard Business School helped devise a formula that laid the basis for massive growth of markets in financial derivatives. The formula gives a method for pricing of derivatives, which is now used the world over

Phillips, William

THE US physicist from the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Maryland, he shares the Nobel Prize for Physics, 1997 for developing a method to trap atoms

Prusiner, Stanley

PROFESSOR of biochemistry at the University of California, Prusiner discovered a protein that causes the "mad cow" disease and other brain-wasting conditions. He commenced work in 1972 and ten years later identified an infectious agent in brain diseases which he called a prion. He has been awarded the Nobel Prize for medicine for his discovery of prions, "an entirely new genre of disease-causing agents".

Scholes, Myron

A Canada-born professor emeritus at the Stanford Business School, USA,

he shares the Nobel Prize for Economics, 1997. He helped devise a mathematical formula published in 1973 that helps measure the worth of stock options. Scholes had worked with another economist, the late Fischer Black, to develop the Black-Scholes model, which has become the standard method for valuing stock options.

Skou, Jens

JENS Skou of the Aarhus University in Denmark, one of the recipients of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, discovered an enzyme in living things that works like a pump to maintain the balance of sodium and potassium in living cells.

Walker, John

JOHN Walker of the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, shares the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, 1997, for his work on the energy molecule, ATP.

Williams, Jody

CAMPAIGN co-ordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), she is the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, 1997. Due to her efforts, attention was drawn to the problem of landmines which kill and injure thousands of people all over the world. Her efforts led to a landmark conference in Oslo to outlaw anti-personnel mines

RESEARCH

Low Pollution Gasoline Cars

US scientists have shown that gasoline can be a fuel for low-pollution electric cars. The fuel cell system could generate electricity from many fluids—gasoline, ethanol, methanol and natural gas among them—or alternative fuels produced in the future. A fuel processor converts the raw fuel into hydrogen, which is run through a carbon monoxide removal system before it is fed into a fuel cell to produce electricity.

It was produced by a government and industry partnership, the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicle, whose goal is a vehicle that travels 128.7 km on a gallon of fuel, or triple the current rate.

The processor was developed by the firm Arthur D. Little, of Cambridge, and the carbon monoxide removal system by Los Alamos National Laboratory development. It is expected that a demonstration vehicle could be produced by 1999.

SPACE

Laser Firing a Partial Success

IN an experiment, US army laser generated a beam that shot up through the atmosphere at the small satellite 420 km above the earth. The test was a partial success. Neither the satellite nor its target point—an infrared camera—were damaged or disabled in the several test firings lasting less than five seconds each. The impact was not recorded as planned as images of the impact could not be transmitted. But the Pentagon views the test as concrete proof of a long-held concern: that its own satellites, as well as intelligence, civilian or commercial satellites, are vulnerable to laser weapons.

The test showed that had the laser been turned up to full power or trained on its target longer, it could have destroyed the satellite. A lower-intensity laser may be able to disable the information-gathering equipment, such as infrared sensors, mounted on military satellites.

Hubble Clicks Colliding Galaxies

NEW pictures taken by the Hubble space telescope include the most detailed images ever seen of the churning explosion of energy that occurs when two galaxies, made up of millions of stars and immense clouds of hydrogen gas and dust, merge into a single giant galaxy. Astronomers believe that such a collision is expected to be the ultimate fate of our own Milky Way galaxy. A nearby galaxy, the Andromeda, is bearing down on the celestial home of the solar system and the two stellar formations will eventually merge. But even though the Andromeda is racing toward the Milky Way at 300,000 miles an hour, the collision won't occur for about 5 billion years.

New Moons of Uranus Discovered

ASTRONOMERS at California's Palomar Observatory, have discovered two new small moons orbiting Uranus bringing to 17 the number of moons circling the seventh planet.

The larger moon measures only 100 miles across, the smaller only 80 km. Unlike the planet's other moons, the new moons orbit Uranus at a unique angle.

The moons are in oblong orbits that take them millions of miles from Uranus. They were probably captured by the giant planet early in the history of the solar system. Planetary satellites like the two new ones, known as irregular moons, have already been discovered orbiting Jupiter, Saturn and Neptune. The larger moon appears red in photographs, suggesting to astronomers that it may be covered with hydrocarbons.

Brightest Star Discovered

Astronomers at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) used NASA's orbiting hubble space telescope to identify what may be the milky way's brightest star—one that releases nearly 10 million times the power of the Sun.

This pistol star may have been more massive than any other star when it was formed, and now, it is still among the most massive—even at the low end of estimates.

Spanish astronomer Francisco Najarro, at Germany's University of Munich Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics, will be doing computer models to determine whether pistol star is, indeed, the galaxy's brightest star.

MISCELLANY

Elevated Urban Train System inaugurated

THE country's first elevated urban train system was inaugurated in Chennai by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi on October 19, 1997. The 10.3 km-long Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) between Mylapore and Beach station is expected to carry six lakh passengers a day. Already a 1-km section of the system has been functioning for more than a year.

Conceived in the 70s, delayed in the 80s and finally completed in the 90s, the MRTS is one of the solutions to decongest Chennai's roads that are choking with smoke-spewing vehicles. Delhi is the next major city that is planning to go for the elevated MRTS. It's a cheaper alter-

native since one kilometre of an elevated rail track costs Rs 60 crore, compared to Rs 250 crore per km for an underground system as in Calcutta. The elevated track does not come in the way of road traffic thus doing away with under and over bridges.

THE GOD OF SMALL THINGS

by Arundhati Roy, winner of Booker Prize, 1997



The God of Small Things, which has won the Booker Prize this year for its author Arundhati Roy, is a remarkably successful book. It had, in fact, begun to make news before it was published. You therefore approach it with a sense of awe, but are immediately drawn into an enchanting tale of childhood. The book revolves around the twins, Rahel and Estha, growing up in Ayemenem in

Kerala, blowing spit bubbles and misunderstanding the adult world together. Arundhati is completely involved in the story and parts of it may be autobiographical too. But the beauty is the writing: the language is natural and each word seems to be chosen with care. What the words do manage to convey are the *feelings*—of love, fear and terror—of the twins. As she said in an interview, what is important in the book is "Not the events. Not the main narrative. It's the emotional texture that is real."

It was this innocence that bowled the judges of the Booker Prize. One of the judges, Jason Cowley, wrote about the "childish quality" of Roy, which manages to peek into every page of her book. Her heightened capacity for wonder is evident in all things, big and small.

Of course one cannot read the book as one would a bestseller. One really has to pay attention to the little detail and the gems of words that she spreads. It is a book to be read at peace and the narrative is to be savoured and enjoyed. The story goes back and forth, ideas are sprouted and are weaved back and forth. The moments are refracted through the lens of the past and future. The main story takes place in 24 hours but is interweaved with events over several years. In a materialistic world, the book is a reminder that the small things of life are precious—the insects, the flowers, the childlike delights. That is what the *The God of Small Things* presides over.

Arundhati Roy is a remarkable talent of our times. She is a trained architect, just like a character in her book. But she has also written the script of a film and has acted as well. What will she do next? She says that it took the whole of her 36 years to write. Quite likely. That is why she does not say anything about the future. She may not write another book, but one thing is certain: this is not the last of Arundhati Roy that we have heard. Look out for her new avatar.

SPORTS

BASKETBALL

Federation Cup

RAILWAYS emerged women's champions in the 14th Federation Cup Basketball. They beat West Bengal 66-21 in their last match in the five-team round-robin league, held at Palakkad.

CRICKET

South Africa-Pakistan Test Series

SHAUN Pollock took 5 wickets and Paul Symcox claimed 3 as South Africa trounced Pakistan by 53 runs to clinch the three-match series 1-0. Pakistan, chasing only 146 to win, were bowled out for 92 in 37.3 overs in the Faisalabad Test.

Challenger Trophy

INDIA 'A' fell short by 31 runs against the Ajay Jadeja-led India Seniors in the Challenger Cup played at Mumbai. India Seniors, thus, won the title for the fourth year in succession.

FOOTBALL

Durand Cup

FC Kochin captain I.M. Vijayan led his team to a stunning 3-1 victory over Calcutta's Mohun Bagan in the final of the Durand Cup played at Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi.

DCM Football Cup

MOHUN Bagan beat the Tata Football Academy 2-0 to claim the DCM Football Cup for the first time. The match was played at New Delhi.

GOLF

Hero Honda Masters

TED Purdy of the US won the Omega Tour's Hero Honda Masters by a single stroke from defending champion Gaurav Ghei, with a 11 under par 277. The match was played at the Delhi Golf Club.

HOCKEY

Champions trophy

CHRISTOPH Bechmann's third goal of the match, four minutes into extra time, gave Germany a 3-2 win over Australia in the gold medal final of the Champions Trophy field hockey tournament held at Adelaide.

Spain beat the Netherlands 2-1 for the bronze medal and Pakistan beat South Korea for fifth place.

POLO

Akai Cup

THE final of the six-nation Akai Cup Polo tournament in New Delhi was played in driving rain and had to be abandoned after the first chukker. India and United Kingdom were declared joint champions.

TENNIS

Heineken Open

WORLD No. 5, Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi, won their sixth

doubles title and secured a berth in the Phoenix-ATP World doubles championships, by beating Rick Leach and Jonathan Stark of US 6-4, 6-4. The tournament was held at Singapore.

Shriram Open

GAURAV Natekar and Asif Ismail, both of Maharashtra, were declared men's singles joint winners in the AITA tour Shriram Open tennis championship at New Delhi.

In the women's singles final unseeded Uzma Khan of Andhra Pradesh beat second seed Arati Ponnappa of Karnataka to win the title.

National Hard Court Tennis Championship

VASUDEVA Reddy of Andhra Pradesh defeated Nitin Kirtane of Maharashtra 6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-1 in the men's singles of the National Hard Court Tennis championship held at Mumbai.

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IEC School of Art & Fashion : Looking Beyond Fashion Frontiers

'Think globally and act locally' has been the advice of management experts for the fast changing global scenario. It is in this context that IEC School of Art & Fashion trains professionals for assisting the apparel industry in India to be globally competitive. The apparel industry, both for domestic and export market, is growing at an exponential rate. Such a growth has resulted in demand for trained manpower which is required in readymade garment industry and in turn has opened a whole range of creative and dynamic careers for garments designers, merchandisers, production managers, quality controllers, design and management consultants. Not to miss out the increasing demand for a relatively new area of CAD professionals, trained on computer-aided design and production.

IEC School of Art & Fashion is an apex body which provides training in apparel design, technology and management. Ever since its inception SAF has made rapid growth not only in terms of students that it churns out every year from its wide network of 90 centres, but also in terms of diversity of courses it offers and the quality of its faculty and resources.

A school par excellence, SAF has a distinctive style and ethos. The conducive educational environment at SAF makes for maximum learning. Aiming to provide a link between the aspirants and professionals, SAF has an impressive advisory board consisting of top notch professionals from design, technology and management fields—like Ritu Beri, Payal Jain, Karuna Khaitan, Anil Aggarwal, Kaushik Ghosh, Vinita Nangia, Y.P. Garg, Ravi Shankar, Shashi Sunny, Kavita Nagpal and Pankaj Sabharwal. The teaching at SAF is provided in a truly global perspective with an integrated approach to learning concepts. Audio-

visual means, multimedia presentations, lec-dem sessions, portfolio and project presentations, market surveys, research, visits to production units and design studios, fashion fairs, trade exhibitions, seminars, workshops and fashion shows instill a complete sense of confidence in every SAF product.

The impressive portfolio of courses offered by SAF enhance the creative as well as practical skills of the students. Some of the long-term career development courses offered by SAF include:

- Honours Diploma in Fashion, Apparel & Textile Technology
- Diploma in Fashion Design, Construction & Management
- Diploma in Textile Design & Technology
- Masters Diploma in Garment Manufacturing Technology
- Diploma in Apparel Marketing & Merchandising
- Advanced Diploma in Computer-Aided Fashion & Textile Design
- Advanced Diploma in Fashion Design & Clothing Technology
- Diploma in Interior Design & Display

Keeping in mind the restraints on time and other resources, SAF has recently introduced a unique Distance Learning Programme in Fashion Design and Management. This course has been designed specially for those aspirants who are unable to join regular courses due to certain constraints, distance being one of them. This course will encompass thorough, comprehensive lessons with assignments and tests coupled with a rigorous contact programme for practical training.

With an object to assist the textile, fashion and apparel industry in meeting the challenges of industrial competitiveness on a global front, SAF has

recently introduced a new division—SAF Industry Cell (SIC)—to cater to the needs of the ever-growing industry. Equipped with all the modern facilities such as Design Studios, Sewing and Cutting labs, CAD centres, Library and Resources Centres SAF Industry Cell provides support services covering all domains of the fashion world. In order to cater to the advance fashion trends information by garment exporters and like professionals, SIC also regularly conducts fashion forecast seminars and workshops to present the latest information in colours, fabrics, textures, design and silhouette trends. Short-term programmes on subjects like Garment Manufacturing Technology, Textile Appreciation, CAD in Garment Production, Leather Technology, Fashion Advertising & Marketing and Accessory Designing & Development are organised by SIC from time to time in order to widen the knowledge base for the professionals specializing in specific fields.

SAF's CAD centre aims at developing computer skills for designing and technology-oriented product development for garment industry. As the pioneer in introducing the concept of computer-aided designing and multimedia-based fashion, SAF has carved out a niche for itself as one of the leading institutes of the country to offer latest in CAD applications. Furthermore, it is the only institute in India to have the status of an Authorised Training Centre (ATC) by the largest dealers in CAD systems—Gerber Garment Technology (GGT) Inc. USA. The SAF-CAD centre offers complete services in areas like pattern making, grading, pattern development, visualising prints, designing printed and woven fabric and generating colour-ways.

Appointments Etc

APPOINTED, ELECTED ETC

Mary McAleese: She has been appointed President of Ireland.

Jenny Shipley: She has been appointed Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Chuan Leekpai: He has been appointed Prime Minister of Thailand.

C. Rangarajan: He has been appointed as the Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

Dilip Parekh: He has been appointed Chief Minister of Gujarat.

Richard R. Celeste: He has been appointed as US Ambassador to India.

Heinrich-Dietrich Dieckmann: He has been appointed Germany's Ambassador to India.

Savitra Kunadi: She has been appointed as the permanent representative of India to the United Nations, succeeding Arundhati Ghose.

B.P. Singh: He has been appointed Union Home Secretary.

Vijay Kelkar: He has taken over as the first chairman of the newly set up Tariff Commission.

Bismal Jalan: He has been appointed

Governor of Reserve Bank of India.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Queen Elizabeth II: Queen of England.

Guntis Ulmanis: Latvian President.

Jean-Luc Dehaene: Prime Minister of Belgium.

Thomas Pickering: US Under Secretary.

RESIGNED

Jim Bolger: Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Akejan Kajegeldin: Prime Minister of Kazakhstan

Shankarsinh Vaghela: Chief Minister of Gujarat.

DIED

James A. Michener: Famous US novelist, and author of many best selling books.

Harold Robbins: An orphan who became a millionaire at 20, then lost it all before writing a string of best-selling novels.

John Denver: US singer, known for his folk-pop songs.

Madhavikkutty Warriar: Noted poetess.

28—The New York Stock Exchange crashes. There is frenzied selling the world over as a result.

—Dilip Parikh is sworn in as Chief Minister of Gujarat.

29—Centre extends the existing cease-fire in Nagaland against all Naga militant groups, for another three months from November 1.

31—US President Bill Clinton concedes differences on human rights with visiting Chinese President Jiang Zemin but overrides his concerns to authorise sales of US atomic reactors to China.

NOVEMBER

1—Suspected Kuki militants gun down 10 CRPF jawans in an ambush in Manipur's Senapati district.

6—The Supreme Court acquits Kalpnath Rai and five others charged under TADA for harbouring terrorists.

8—U.S. threatens military action against Iraq if Iraq carried out its threat to shoot down U.N. surveillance planes.

EVENTS

OCTOBER

11—More than 400 people are killed and 20,000 left homeless after hurricane Pauline hits Acapulco in southern Mexico.

15—Tamil Tiger militants explode a huge bomb in the central business district of Colombo, leaving 26 dead and more than 100 injured.

—NASA's controversial nuclear-powered Cassini mission lifts off on a 7-year voyage to Saturn.

19—The BJP-BSP coalition in Uttar Pradesh comes to an end as the Bahujan Samaj Party withdraws support to the Kalyan Singh ministry.

20—Congress withdraws support to the Shankarsinh Vaghela government in Gujarat.

22—The Union Cabinet reverses its decision to dismiss the Kalyan Singh gov-

ernment and impose President's rule in Uttar Pradesh, after the President K.R. Narayanan refuses to sign the proclamation.

25—India and Pakistan agree to resume talks at a meeting in Edinburgh, for working out a mechanism for making progress on substantive issues.

26—Congo's former military dictator Denis Sassou Nguesso installs himself as President after a 11-day bloody civil war.

—The Iraqi Parliament recommends freezing contacts with UN weapons inspectors following a Security Council resolution that had threatened further sanctions against Baghdad.

27—Chinese President Jiang Zemin begins his US visit among scattered protests from human rights, Taiwanese and Tibetan supporters.

MILESTONES

Kalpana Chawla: The Karnal-born girl has been selected by NASA to serve as mission specialist for the November 27 launch of the space shuttle Columbia.

Karan Randi: The Indian politician has been elected to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of Parliament, for the first time in its history.

Shankar Dutt: The 100-year-old poet and writer has been elected to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of Parliament, for the first time in its history.

Rajiv Gandhi: The Prime Minister has been elected to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of Parliament, for the first time in its history.

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Square Market ● JAIPUR Bapu Nagar ● JALANDHAR Lalpat Nagar Market ● JAMMU Gandhi Nagar ● Palace Road ● JAMSHEDPUR Rajendra Nagar
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